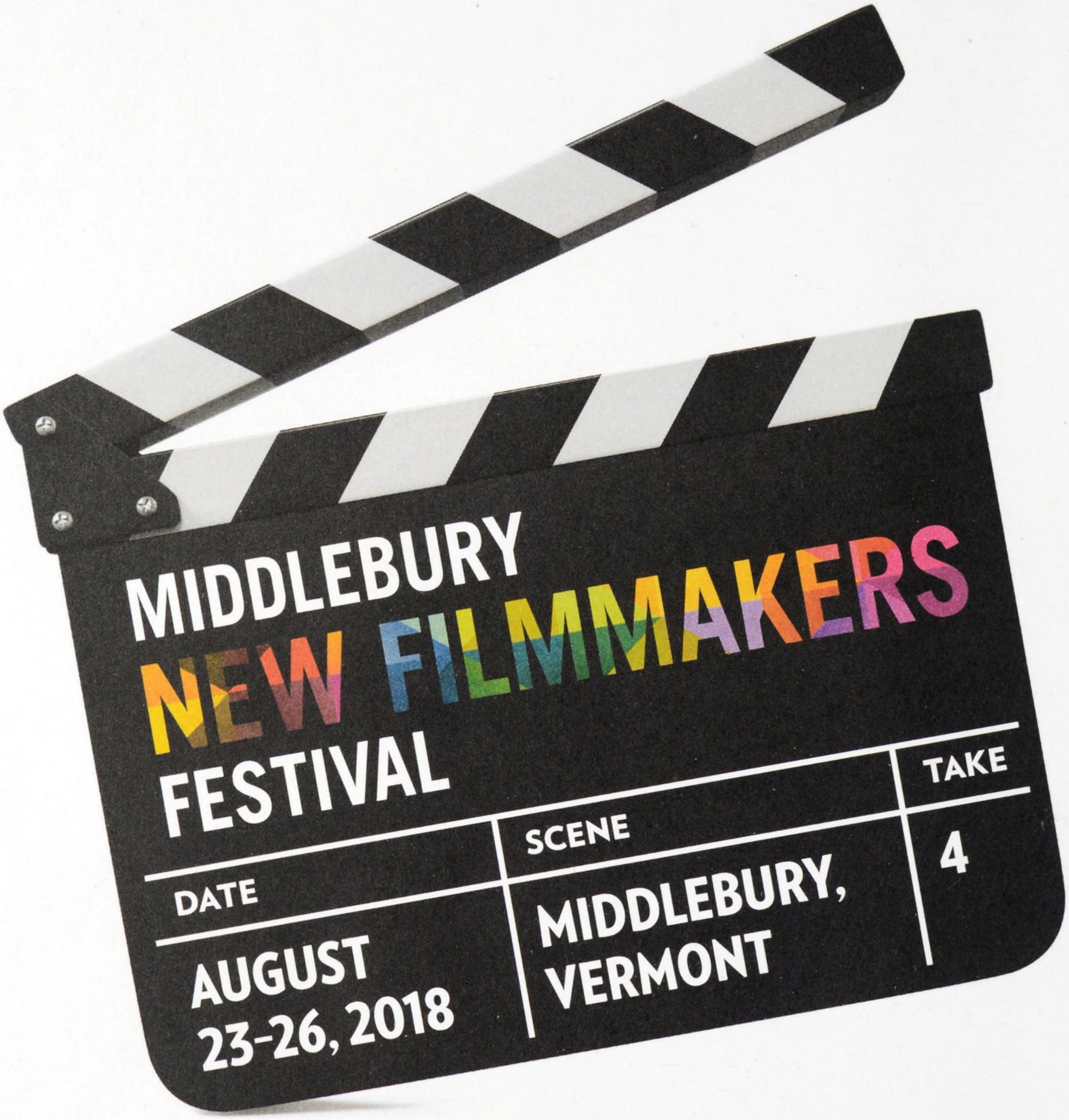
Middlebury

MAGAZINE

A schoolhouse fire in Cleveland shocked the nation in 1908, and then was largely forgotten—until now.

With a historical treatment unlike any you've ever seen, scholar Michael Newbury, filmmaker Daniel Houghton '04, and a team of Middlebury students shine a new light on an American tragedy.


MIDDLEBURY
NEW FILMMAKERS
FESTIVAL
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4
SCENE
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DATE
AUGUST 23-26, 2018

The Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival is a four-day juried competition featuring 90+ films by first- and second-time filmmakers at venues throughout Middlebury.

Awards are given for Best Feature Documentary, Best Short Documentary, Best Feature Narrative, Best Short Narrative, Audience Award—Feature, and Audience Award—Short categories.

See curated new films from the festival at the monthly Winter Screenings Series at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury, or check out last year's winners in the statewide Best of the Fest Tour beginning in February.

Submissions for the 2018 festival are accepted until May 15 at

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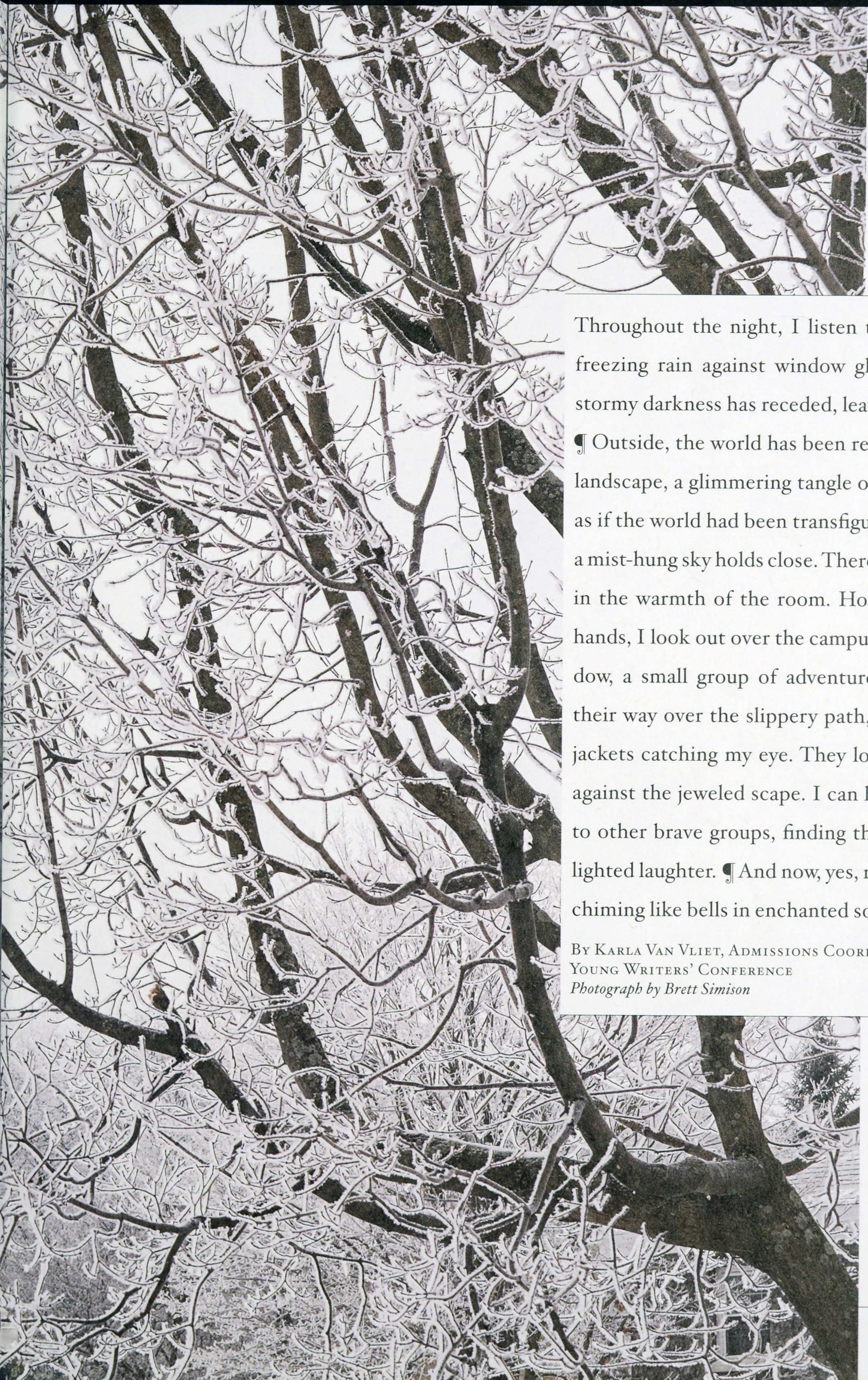
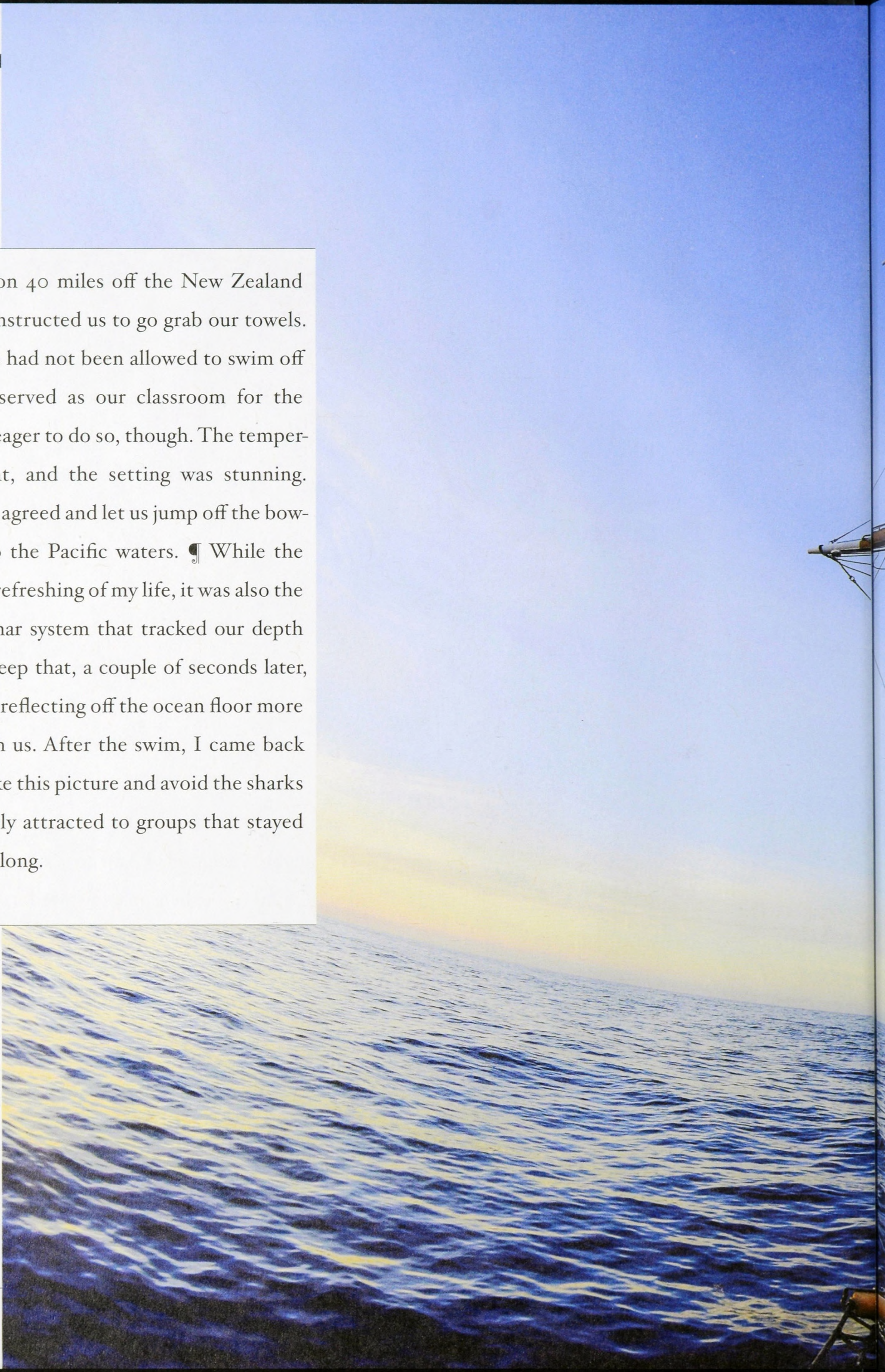


The spire of Mead Chapel, flanked by ice-glazed arbor.

Throughout the night, I listen to the pinging tap of freezing rain against window glass. By morning the stormy darkness has receded, leaving quiet in its stead. ¶ Outside, the world has been rendered into a foreign landscape, a glimmering tangle of ice-glazed branches, as if the world had been transfigured into glass. Above, a mist-hung sky holds close. There is a sense of comfort in the warmth of the room. Holding my tea in both hands, I look out over the campus. I see, from the window, a small group of adventurous students making their way over the slippery path, their bright-colored jackets catching my eye. They look like strange birds against the jeweled scape. I can hear them calling out to other brave groups, finding their own paths, in delighted laughter. ¶ And now, yes, returning calls, voices chiming like bells in enchanted song.

By Karla Van Vliet, Admissions Coordinator, New England Young Writers' Conference
Photograph by Brett Simison



One sunny afternoon 40 miles off the New Zealand coast, our captain instructed us to go grab our towels. Until that point, we had not been allowed to swim off the tall ship that served as our classroom for the semester. We were eager to do so, though. The temperature was just right, and the setting was stunning. Luckily, our captain agreed and let us jump off the bowsprit and deck into the Pacific waters. ¶ While the swim was the most refreshing of my life, it was also the most eerie. The sonar system that tracked our depth emitted a strange beep that, a couple of seconds later, repeated itself after reflecting off the ocean floor more than a mile beneath us. After the swim, I came back onto the deck to take this picture and avoid the sharks that were supposedly attracted to groups that stayed in the water for too long.

By Anna Cerf '18

Last spring, Anna Cerf '18 was one of three Middlebury students participating in the Global Ocean, a Sea Education Association program. She submitted this photograph to the 2017 Study Abroad photo contest.

MIDDLEBURY
4:04
PLYR PENALTY
PERIOD
PLYR PENALTY
SHOTS ON GOAL
DLEBURY
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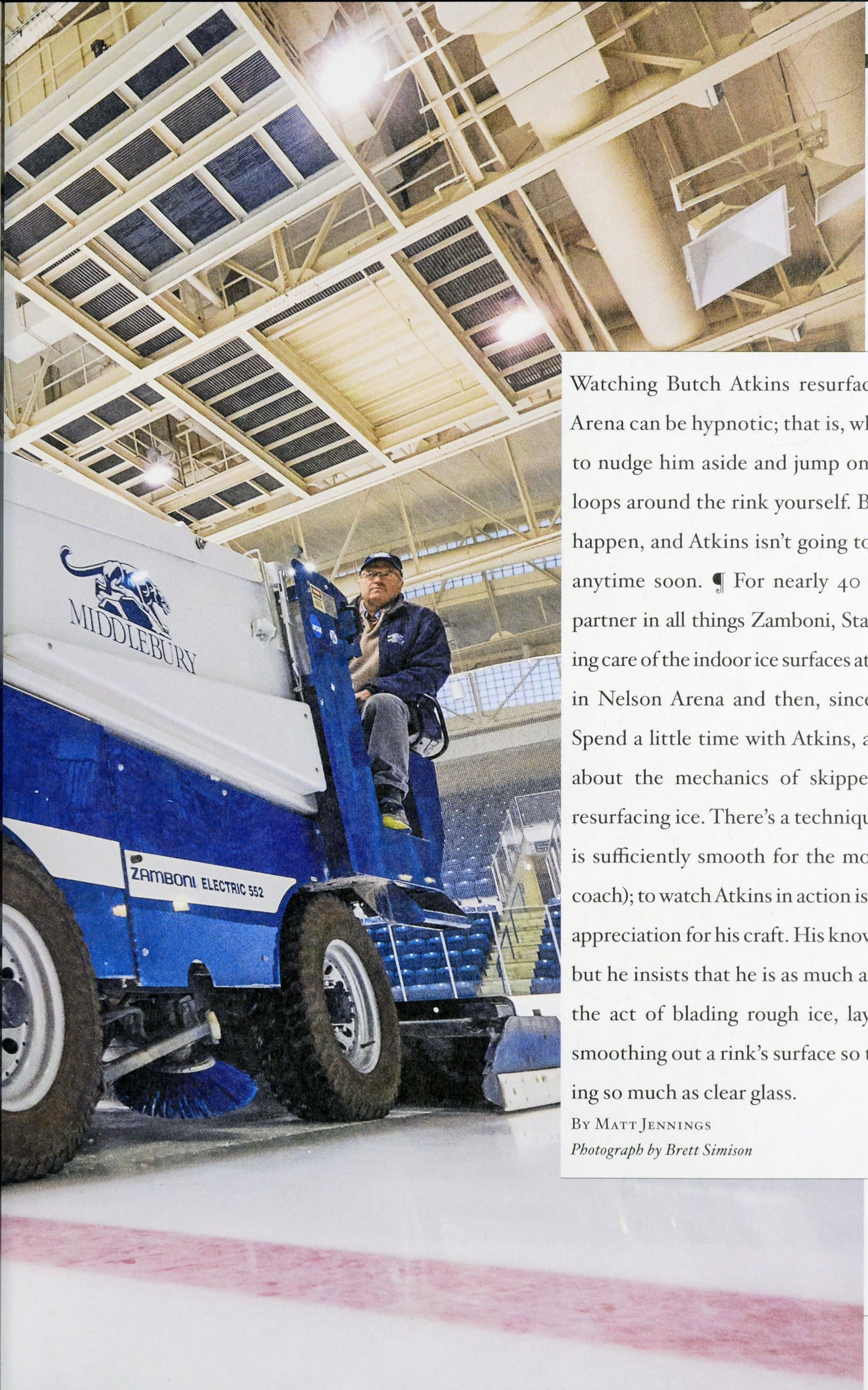
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE NCAA ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS 2005
The Jim Luke '50 & Ralph Loveys '51 Zamboni
ZAMBONI



When not tending to the wants and needs of the Kenyon Arena ice, Butch Atkins likes to travel around the state and take in a hockey contest at his leisure, though, he admits, "I end up watching the Zamboni as closely as I watch the game."

Watching Butch Atkins resurface the ice in Kenyon Arena can be hypnotic; that is, when you're not itching to nudge him aside and jump on the rig to take a few loops around the rink yourself. But that's not going to happen, and Atkins isn't going to be giving up his seat anytime soon. ¶ For nearly 40 years, Atkins and his partner in all things Zamboni, Stan Pratt, have been taking care of the indoor ice surfaces at Middlebury, first over in Nelson Arena and then, since 1999, in Kenyon. ¶ Spend a little time with Atkins, and he will tell you all about the mechanics of skippering a Zamboni and resurfacing ice. There's a technique to attaining ice that is sufficiently smooth for the most exacting skater (or coach); to watch Atkins in action is to gain an even greater appreciation for his craft. His knowledge appears infinite, but he insists that he is as much a work in progress as is the act of blading rough ice, laying down water, and smoothing out a rink's surface so that it resembles nothing so much as clear glass.

By Matt Jennings

Photograph by Brett Simison

See more of what we're talking about

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EDITOR'S PICKS

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Her job at TED is to help people spread great ideas so we can better understand the world. But to really get to know Cloe Shasha '11, we turned to her best friend.
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COVER IMAGE COURTESY OF *THE COLLINWOOD FIRE*. PHOTOGRAPH BY ALYSSA SCHUKAR (ABOVE LEFT). ABOVE PHOTOGRAPH BY JON ROEMER.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Radio, Radio

The offices and studios of WRMC, the College's radio station, are on the top floor of Proctor Hall. The station is tucked away on the west side of the building, and it is not all that easy to find. A relatively sterile stairway leads one up to and back down a brightly lit hallway, past the Redfield Proctor Dining Room and to a lone door decorated in record label stickers.

Inside, the space appears exactly as you would image a student-run operation to look: a lounge area with a couple of couches that are probably older than the students themselves; a side table holding a dusty Keurig coffeemaker and a stack of CDs waiting to be reviewed; a couple of doorways open to an office and server room; and then a dark, narrow hallway that leads to a recording space and the on-air studio.

WRMC has been broadcasting since 1949, ever since John Bowker '52 and James Kitchell '51 jerry-rigged some equipment in a small chicken coop behind Bowker's father's house in town and began speaking to, well, a small portion of Addison County. During the first couple of decades the station broadcast for about 6–12 hours a day; most days the weak signal barely reached the dorms on campus. Since the addition of a transmitter (10 watts!) in 1967, subsequent upgrades in the '80s (100 watts!) and into the 21st century (2,900 watts!), WRMC's terrestrial reach has steadily expanded and now includes live streaming of all its programming.

For the past 10 years or so, the students in charge have humored a couple of old guys—me and my friend Tim—and have provided us with a Friday afternoon slot (3:30–5:00) during which we play, as our tagline pretentiously states, "the finest in eclectic college radio sound." We're one of 125 shows on the air each week, round-the-clock programming that features music and talk, news and radio theater, jazz and soul, hip-hop and punk. The other day, as I came into the studio with a tentative playlist that included Robyn Hitchcock, the Drive-By Truckers, and the Wu-Tang Clan, the outgoing DJs were wrapping up their set with—James Taylor. I couldn't tell whether the selection was ironic or earnest; whatever the case, WRMC is thriving and now traveling around the world and back again. Not bad for an effort that began with a couple of guys and a small backyard chicken coop.

ILLUSTRATION BY TRACY WALKER

Middlebury
MAGAZINE

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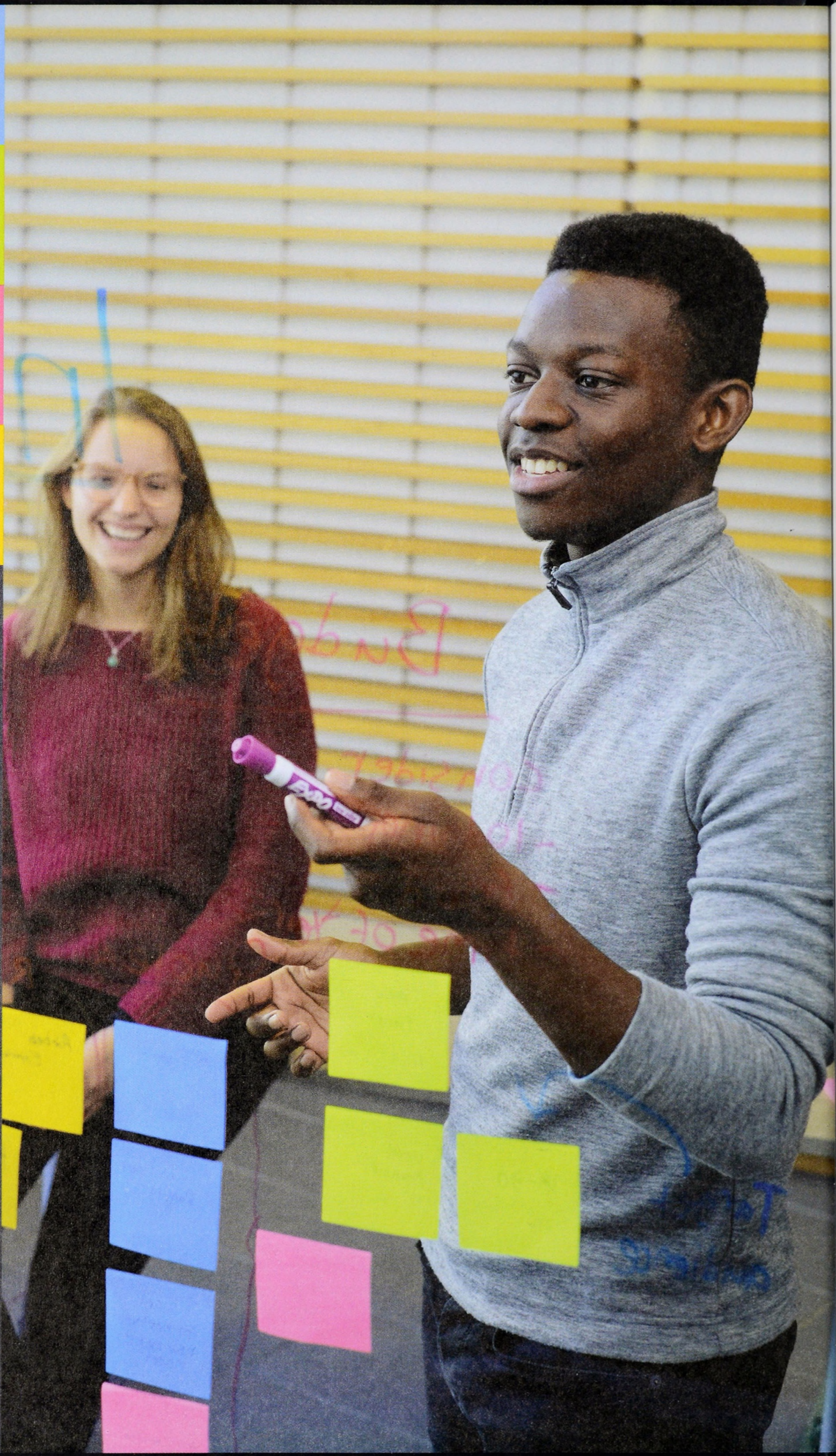


Our Future, Envisioned

By Laurie L. Patton

At a crossroads. ¶ That was where I saw Middlebury when I arrived as its new president in 2015. More precisely, I saw it at an exciting crossroads, with Middlebury as a newly complex institution, with the liberal arts college as our oldest and largest unit, and with the Language Schools, Schools Abroad, Bread Loaf (both the School of English and the Writers' Conferences), and the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey all playing increasingly important roles. We were at a point, I decided, where we needed to take a new look at ourselves and learn (and relearn, in some cases) who and what Middlebury is at present—and what it might become.

We called that learning process Envisioning Middlebury, and through that process we set out to discern what our vision should be for the Middlebury of today, and tomorrow. Envisioning Middlebury began in early 2016, expertly led by Provost Susan Baldridge and supported by our Steering and Advisory Committees. We took a ground-up approach, gathering as much data as we could about Middlebury. We created dozens of ad hoc groups and conducted surveys and focused conversations, all of which zeroed in on three important questions about Middlebury: Who are we and what are our deepest values? What is the future? And where do we want to go?

Those explorations were fruitful, and they gave us great insights and rich material that grew into the strategic framework that we introduced in the fall and that the trustees approved on October 21. It is explored in much detail starting on page 32 of this issue of *Middlebury Magazine*.

It's important for me to emphasize that what we've created is not, strictly speaking, a strategic plan, but rather a strategic framework—an outline, with lots of room to build, define, and refine. The framework represents a powerful vision for the future, a guide rather than a dictate. It is not a checklist of things to do over the next decade—it is a challenge to us to act strategically every day.

Envisioning Middlebury delivers a new way to define Middlebury: a mission statement, a vision statement, four areas of distinction, six strategic directions, and four principles.

Our mission statement is the first that encompasses the entirety of the Middlebury enterprise: "Through a commitment to immersive learning, we prepare students to lead engaged, consequential, and creative lives, contribute to their communities, and address the world's most challenging problems."

Our vision statement, a first for Middlebury, calls us to be aspirational and clear about the world that we are trying to create: "A world with a robust and inclusive public sphere where ethical citizens work across intellectual, geographical, and cultural borders."

Our four areas of distinction are our areas of strength, which we don't just celebrate, but also recommit to and ask how to better leverage. For example, we distinguish ourselves in our global network of educational programs and opportunities. But if we excel in intercultural communication as we travel to different countries, how can we communicate even better across the cultures of our own academic units?

Our six strategic directions are a guiding compass that points us toward where we need to focus our attention. One of these directions is a globally networked curriculum, so that our students can take advantage of all we have to offer, in all of the locations where they can be educated. Rather than building new campuses all over the globe, we intend to be more effective leaders by building and maintaining the exciting global partnerships that we've already begun (some of which we've maintained for decades).

As we move forward, we must always keep in mind that we have created this strategic framework not just to add to Middlebury's scope but to think differently about Middlebury's scope. We will steward our resources wisely, with the intention that some of the major strategic initiatives that are built around this framework may come without a financial cost, but will instead involve reorganization and rethinking.

In 2015, I considered Middlebury to be at a crossroads. At the beginning of 2018, I ask this: if we succeed in implementing the ideas that will come from defining our mission, vision, areas of distinction, directions, and principles, then where will Middlebury be in 2028?

Here is what I envision: that Middlebury will have leveraged its strengths differently. That we will offer a curriculum that takes students around the globe and gives them a better sense of place, and commitment to place, with each educational endeavor. That we are shaping leaders who know what it means to lead because they have embraced the experiential component of learning that will be part of all their classroom environments. And that Middlebury will be a place where students participate in public discourse with both intellectual rigor and generosity of spirit.

This vision comes from what all of us—faculty, staff, trustees, alumni, students—envisioned for Middlebury. I invite you to engage with us and to share your own visions with me at president@middlebury.edu.

ILLUSTRATION BY MONTSE BERNAL

Talk

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

Julia Breckenreid ("Somehow") is an illustrator in Toronto. Among her clients: the *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, the *Walrus*, Random House, and Penguin. In 2018, she will be a visiting artist at Syracuse University and the New Hampshire Institute of Art. She challenged us with her approach to our back page essay this issue, and we're glad she did. Her concept expertly illustrates Courtney Mather's personal experience in war-torn Sudan.

Tiffany Farrant-Gonzalez ("Envisioning Middlebury") is an illustrator and information designer. Her job: to "turn data into visual narratives." And she is really, really good at doing so. Her work for folks such as *Fast Company*, *Scientific American*, *Quartz*, and Google has been featured in a number of books, including *Best American Infographics*, *Designing Data*, and *Infographic Design in the News*. A native of the United Kingdom, Tiffany now lives just up the road in Burlington, where—in addition to producing first-rate work—she owns a boutique coffee shop, Onyx Tonics.

Bianca Giaever '12.5 ("Regarding Cloe") is a filmmaker and radio producer; she also is pretty adept at writing for magazines. She profiled one of her best friends, Cloe Shasha '11, for this issue of the magazine, and the resulting piece is insightful, funny, and utterly authentic. Bianca's radio work has appeared on *This American Life*, *Radiolab*, and Gimlet Media's *Reply All*. She's contributed films to the *New Yorker* and the *Atlantic*, and one of her student pieces, *The Scared is scared*, remains one of the best things ever to appear on the Internet.

Mark Hoffman ("Tales of Two Cities") is an illustrator who grew up in Minnesota, but now calls New England home. His drawings have been published by *Yankee*, *Texas Monthly*, *Cottage Life* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. We've found him to be a whiz with whimsical geographical concepts, so he seemed the perfect fit to illustrate J. M. Tyree's London and Joseph Pearson's Berlin. He didn't disappoint.

Lena Singer ("Maker of Magic") is an editor and writer in Chicago. She contributes to *Chicago* magazine, *Crain's Chicago Business*, and the national shopping site Racked. Prior to that, she was the managing editor for Rookie, a feminist website and book series for teenagers. This is her first story for the magazine.

CORRESPONDENCE

The High Road

Did an American NGO create an entirely new model of sustainable development in the southern highlands of Peru?

By Carolyn Kormann '04

Photographs by Brett Simison

A NEW WAY FORWARD?

Carolyn Kormann '04 wrote a sensational piece on the sustainable development work of Aaron Ebner MPA '11 and Adam Stieglitz MPA '11 in the Quechua communities of the Andes ("The High Road," fall 2017). In the '80s and '90s I worked with Traditions for Tomorrow (TFT), an organization that pursued the same kind of community-devised, small-ball approach to development that Ebner and Stieglitz champion. These communities were by definition small and remote, so the projects were tiny and defied scalability.

During a visit to several jungle communities in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, I saw firsthand how powerful and empowering it was for the community itself to devise and complete its own development projects. I also saw the damage well-meaning and super-well-financed Western NGOs could do. These NGOs "knew" what these communities needed, they paid the leaders of the communities to "manage" these projects from offices in air-conditioned trailers, and I was left to wonder what would happen when the trailers and all that money disappeared.

During that visit, TFT's founder and single volunteer full-time staff member declared to me, after a mandatory sit-down with the local witch doctor, that to do this kind of work, you have to be either a saint or crazy. Ebner and Stieglitz have to be a little of both to do the work they do at 14,000 feet. But they also may have found a way for us mere mortals to participate through the establishment of their Center for Andean Studies. In the one week I spent in Central America, I learned more about development than I could in years studying from campus. I encourage Middlebury to work with Ebner and Stieglitz to expand and scale their approach to development and experiential learning.

—David Crane '76, *Boston, Massachusetts*

THIS SHOULD BE BIGGER THAN PERU

I am so impressed by the work of Aaron Ebner, Adam Stieglitz, and the Andean Alliance team in Peru. Some philanthropist out there needs to align themselves with these guys and help make this bottom-up approach the new industry standard!

This is all much bigger than Peru. This is about a model that respects the word "sustainable" instead of just standing on its marketability.

Godspeed, Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development.

—Ryan Mercer, *Commenting on middmag.com*

PRAISE FOR "THE HIGH ROAD"

Middlebury Magazine's fall 2017 cover story ("The High Road") is superb in every sense of the word. Beyond telling an inspirational and thought-provoking story, the article also triggered some connect-the-dots thinking: I know of at least two academic contacts with whom a relationship might benefit Adam Stieglitz's dive into "the convergence of academia and community development." It wouldn't surprise me if other readers had a similar "aha" moment. If we all share our intelligence with Stieglitz, you never know what might follow.

Featuring the work of MIIS alumni adds a whole new dimension to the magazine, and the exceptional writing was icing on the cake. Carolyn Kormann '04 has a gift for creating vivid portraits and landscapes in the mind's eye. Thank you.

—Leslie Peterson Limon '68, *Salem, Massachusetts*

DIRECTIONS, PLEASE

I enjoyed your story titled "The High Road" and the striking cover photo that called attention to the piece. To make it easier to find, however, the page number of the article should be mentioned on the cover, so interested readers can turn directly to it.

—Barbara Freeman Irving '59, *Media, Pennsylvania*

ADMIRATION FOR HEANEY

Like Karl Lindholm '67, I had a first-year's admiring perspective on senior Mike Heaney '64 ("A Soldier's Journey," fall 2017), who not only helped orient our class to the College, but represented everything effective and upright that I could then imagine.

The traumatic injury and the loss of his comrades he managed to endure in Vietnam were, for me, more devastating for having been in service of no commanding moral imperative. What Mike conveyed to Karl and to the Ken Burns documentary about the war is a vital message to our present historical moment: that while benighted national policy can bring the very best of us low, men and women with the heart to make an honest reckoning will heal, serve, and right the record.

Mike Heaney today stands as he did to me and my classmates in 1964.

—Rick Hawley '67, *Ripton, Vermont*

RECALLING THE VIETNAM ERA

Karl Lindholm's tight but eloquent profile of Mike Heaney brought back memories of my six months at Fort Benning in 1966 with Fran Love, Jeff McKay, Bob Eldred, and Paul Witteman, all from the Class of '65, who had volunteered for the infantry.

At our briefing on the battle of Ia Drang, the first large-scale action for American forces, we were told that the enemy had proven very good at killing second lieutenants in the First Air Cavalry, Mike's unit. By May, we knew through the Middlebury network one who had gotten hit: Mike.

It's no surprise to me that, like Fran, he's helping younger vets deal with the aftereffects of war, and he's gone back to Vietnam to honor the memories of those who were lost and to reconcile with those who suffered the most, the people of Vietnam. The strength of the hills . . .

—Joe McLaughlin '65, *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

THANK YOU, KARL

I write with gratitude to my College roommate and colleague, Karl Lindholm '67, for finding his feeling and thoughtful words to recount the Vietnam sacrifices of Mike Heaney and his men, then and ongoing. We and our nation continue to carry the reality of their experience and stories, then and now.

—Gary Margolis '67, *Cornwall, Vermont*

GREAT WORK, TIMES TWO

Thanks for publishing the piece on Caleb McClennen '97 ("Wild at Heart," fall 2017), which I found to be very interesting. There is great work being done by the Wildlife Conservation Society. Thanks for highlighting it.

—Ian Kelley, *Commenting on middmag.com*

A BIT OF NOSTALGIA

The end of 2017 offered a bit of nostalgia for Middlebury.

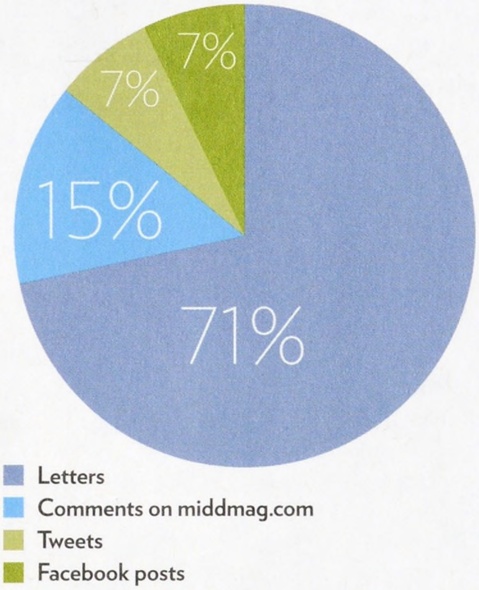
First there was graphic artist Mark Alan Stamaty's delightful and creative "Short Story" in the fall issue of *Middlebury Magazine* capturing the visit to Mead Chapel in the '80s of the not-yet-established Garrison Keillor and *Prairie Home Companion* when he presented three shows, one of them a national broadcast. Mr. Stamaty did an accurate job capturing the dialogue and youthful mien of the participants.

I recall when we announced that *Prairie Home Companion* was coming, there was great

NUMBERS

Mail Bag We're thrilled that Carolyn Kormann's cover story on Aaron Ebner, Adam Stieglitz, and the Andean Alliance for Sustainable Development (AASD) got folks thinking about how nongovernmental organizations could be more efficient—and effective. One writer said that the piece triggered "some connect-the-dots thinking," prompting her to connect some peers with AASD. Talk about the power of the pen!

HOW YOU CHOOSE TO TALK



1

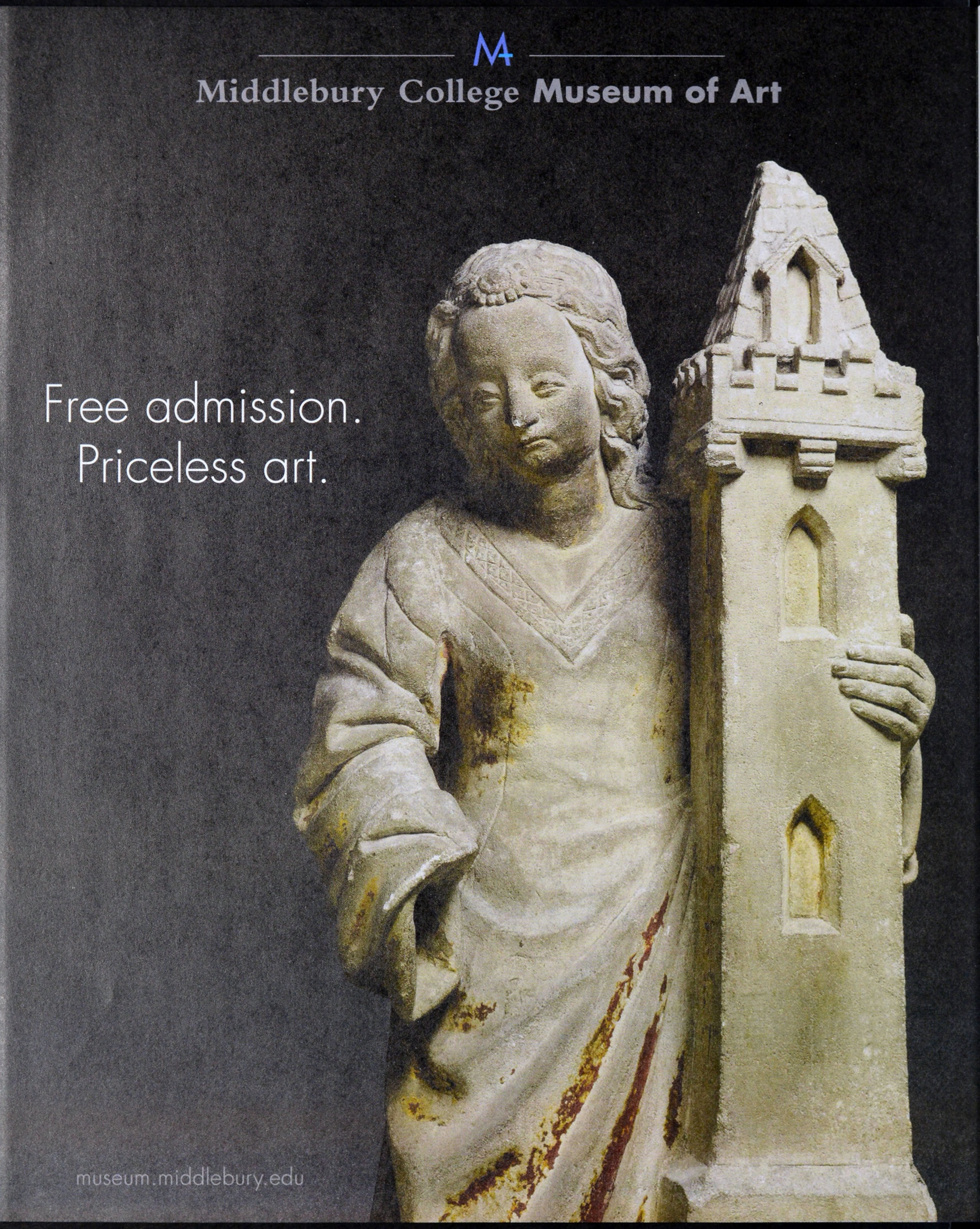
COMMENT FROM THE COLLEGE'S FOUNDER INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE'S BATCH OF LETTERS—KIND OF

2

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW WE COULD IMPROVE THE MAGAZINE

1

LETTER, SINCE RETRACTED, OBSERVING THAT WE DON'T RUN LETTERS IN THE MAGAZINE ANYMORE (WE DO)



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excitement among the parents of students; the students, however, were unimpressed. They reported that the folks called and just said they were coming for a visit and to get tickets.

The day that tickets went on sale, Security called to report that there was a line winding down the street and that they had found numerous people sleeping in their cars overnight. We quickly pulled together coffee and doughnuts for the assembled throng. The tickets were gone in two hours.

Several years later, after Keillor had taken a year off with his new Danish wife to go to Denmark, the College got a call from his producer saying that he needed to get his timing back before resuming his public radio broadcasts and, recalling his earlier Middlebury visit, he would love to do a few shows at Middlebury. Years later, he told the story of his trying to get his footing at that performance. He proceeded with one of his Lake Wobegon tales that went on so long that, as he put it, he wound up following people to their cars telling them he was almost finished. Suffice it to say, it was a long show.

A second reminder of that happy period came this past December with the presentation on Vermont Public Television of a remastered *Christmas in Vermont* special.

The filming of the annual Service of Lessons and Carols in Mead Chapel from 1984 featured the ebullient choral director Emory Fanning and the Middlebury choir and student musicians. It provides wonderful performances and a look back at another era, providing youthful images of many memorable figures in Middlebury's history. It is available at the Vermont Public Television website.

Former President Olin Robison, who made both of these productions possible, was able to share in these reminiscences from his home in Baltimore.

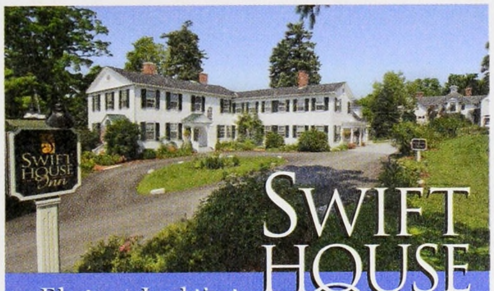
—Ron Nief, *Madison, Wisconsin*

The writer worked at Middlebury from 1976 to 1994. He worked as the editor of this magazine and the director of public affairs..

MORE, INDEED

In response to the letter "More Language School History, Please," which appeared in the fall 2017 issue, I would like to add to the history of Middlebury College's Language Schools.

My mother, who attended the Bread Loaf School of English, was captivated by Middlebury, and she encouraged me to do graduate work in French at Middlebury in the 1970s. The faculty at that time included renowned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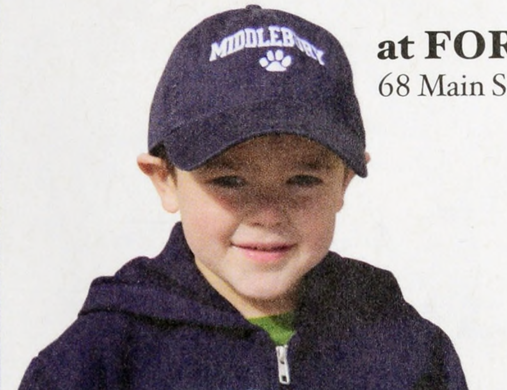
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professors from French universities and notable writers. During my last summer at Middlebury in 1974, Michel Butor, best known for his experiments with the narrative structure of the novel, was the resident writer. During his lectures, Butor provided insight into the creation of a literary work that he was writing at the time.

I treasured my summers at Middlebury. I have reread much of the French literature I studied then and have arrived at a deepened appreciation of it.

—Lucia C. Biederman, MA French '74, *Naples, Florida*

SOME CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Reading through the fall issue of the magazine, I was quite pleased with the visual quality of the pages, which are quite intriguing and enticing.

However, I find the Class Notes section to be deadly boring visually, and in my humble estimation, it is crying out for a makeover.

On the same date that I received the fall issue of *Middlebury Magazine*, my *Wharton* magazine arrived, and I was struck by the vibrancy of its Class Notes section. I encourage the magazine staff to take a look. *Wharton* has interspersed color photos of alumni get-togethers and family shots throughout, and this is what makes it so arresting to look at.

Yes, Middlebury has a much higher volume of material, and I understand you must keep the page count under control, but can you possibly consider moving to an all-color interspersed photo format of the far-superior Wharton feature?

—Rick Raskopf '57, *Oxford, Connecticut*

From the editors: Thanks for your feedback, Rick. We agree with you that our Class Notes department can be a bit dense, visually, and have some ideas for how to bring more visual content to these pages—

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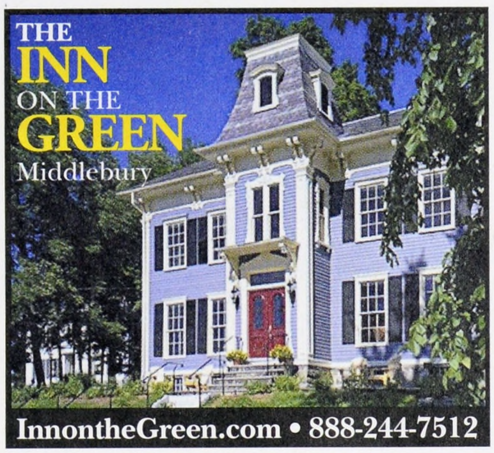
without losing the terrific editorial content already present.

Stay tuned.

ASKED AND ANSWERED

After the publication of our summer 2017 cover story, "A History of Middlebury in 46 Objects," the "Midd Alum" Facebook page asked followers what their favorite item was. The favorite appeared to be Gamaliel Painter's cane.

And our favorite response? From Painter, himself—or at least his Facebook account: "Hey, that's mine!"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PLEASE DON'T TRY AT HOME

Don't try this at home: Apparently this was a take on the winter pastime of "traying" at my alma mater @Middlebury, which I completely missed. Does anyone know the year?
—ALISON KENNEDY (@ALISON_BKK) '73,
Commenting on Twitter

From the editors: Alison is referring to the Class Acts photograph from the winter 2017 issue, which depicts a couple of guys about to "sled" down the hill in front of Mead Chapel—in a canoe. For the record, we believe that the photo was from the winter of 1989–90.

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ANOTHER "LIFE STORY"

As usual, I'm behind in my magazine reading, but I just got to Sara Thurber Marshall's very nice piece about Barbara Cummiskey Villet '52 and her work during the 1960s as one of a very few female reporters at *Life* magazine ("A Life Story," spring 2017).

The story brought back a bunch of memories for me, as both my late dad and mom were editors at *Life* during the same period. Their romance deepened as coworkers at the magazine, as was the case with Cummiskey and her *Life* photographer husband, Grey Villet.

Although my dad and mom never worked together on a story, as Cummiskey and Villet did, our entire family became unexpectedly embroiled in theories about President Kennedy's assassination after my father, Paul Mandel, *Life* associate editor at the time, wrote the text that accompanied the Zapruder film images, and later, a key *Life* feature about the assassination.

That was Dad's last story for *Life*, since he died in his 30s soon afterward of cancer. To this day, there are assassination conspiracy theorists who believe that he somehow shaded the article to cover up a conspiracy. There are also those who continue to claim that the CIA must have "injected him with cancer cells" to make sure he never testified.

But that's another *Life* story.

Best wishes, and thanks again for the piece.
—PETER MANDEL '79, *Providence, Rhode Island*

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Well, we have a number of mistakes to own up to. We're grateful to our eagle-eyed readers for spotting errors in our pages, and while we are chagrined at their occurrence—and our failure to catch them before the magazine was printed—we are more than happy to set the record straight. So here goes.

In the fall issue, we published a letter by Christi Rentsch Moraga '76, in which she lamented not seeing more Language Schools objects in our summer cover story, "A History of Middlebury in 46 Objects." In her letter, Christi referenced Professor Roberto Véguez. Somewhere along the way, we lost the accent mark above the "e" in Véguez. Christi had it right; we had it wrong. (Hat tip to Elizabeth Karnes Keefe for pointing this out to us.)

In the same issue, we published an obituary for Peter Marshall '53. In the obit, we stated that Peter received his MBA from Harvard. We've subsequently learned that he only attended Harvard Business School for one year and did not receive a degree. We regret the error.

And while this last correction does not per-

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tain to the magazine, it does relate to an editorial product that we produce: the 2017 Engagement Calendar.

For this annual publication—the one mailed in the fall of 2016—we had the wrong date listed for the first night of Hanukkah. Rose Modry Nash '01 wrote to tell us: "I am so bummed to see that the Middlebury College engagement calendar has the wrong date listed for the first night of Chanukah. As a Jewish student at Middlebury College in the late 1990s, I felt like we certainly were a minority—especially those of us who attended Hillel services—but it felt really good when I and others at Middlebury got Rabbi Ira to be our College and the Havurah's rabbi. As this was Rabbi Ira's last year at the College, it would be nice to sense that the College really is paying attention to the various faiths of her students. The error in the calendar is an unfortunate one."

We agree, and we are so sorry for the mistake. We've double-checked the 2018 Engagement Calendar, mailed in the fall, and the dates are correct.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters addressing topics discussed in the magazine are given priority, though they may be edited for brevity or clarity. On any given subject we will print letters that address that subject, and then in the next issue, letters that respond to the first. After that, we will move on to new subjects. Send letters to: *Middlebury Magazine*, 152 College Street, Middlebury, VT 05753 or middmag@middlebury.edu.

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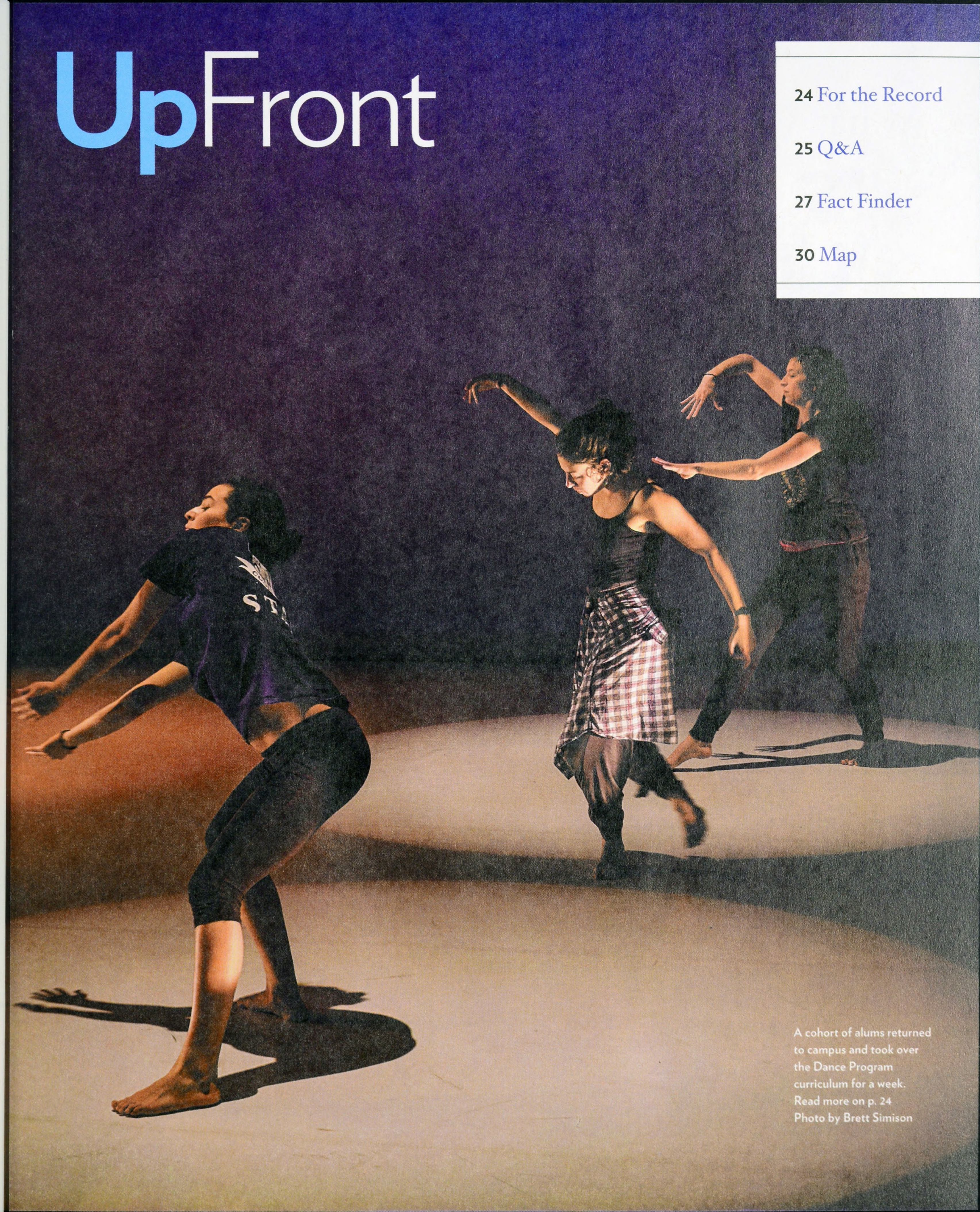


A cohort of alums returned to campus and took over the Dance Program curriculum for a week. Read more on p. 24
Photo by Brett Simison

What We're Talking About

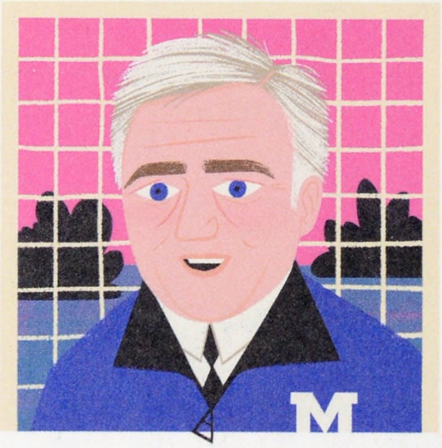
Call it an authorized coup: during the third week of November, a cohort of 10 Middlebury alumni took over the curriculum of the **Dance Program**. The alums—professional dancers, all—taught classes, conducted public workshops, participated in a panel discussion about the profession, and dazzled an adoring audience with a performance of the dancers' most recent creative works. Christal Brown, chair of the Dance Program, called the initiative "the ultimate test of our curriculum." By all accounts, both teachers and students passed with flying colors.

A strong equities market helped generate an investment return of 13.8 percent for Middlebury's **endowment** in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Thanks to the solid return and to gifts received during the year, the value of Middlebury's endowment ended the year at $1.074 billion—up $74 million from 2016. Last year's performance boosted the endowment's 3-year annualized return to 5.1 percent, the 5-year return to 9.2 percent, and the 10-year return to 6.3 percent.

The Athletics Hall of Fame inducted seven new members: football and lacrosse standout **Fred Beams '66**; **Julia Bergofsky McPhee '02**, a two-time All-American in lacrosse and an all-region performer in field hockey; **Dates Fryberger '63**, a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympic hockey team; three-sport athlete **Jennifer Hefner Carbone '97**, who set school records in ice hockey and soccer; legendary coach and athletic director **G. Thomas Lawson**; All-American soccer defender **Mike Noonan '83**; and former lacrosse captain **Jed Raymond '00**, a three-time All-American and national player of the year.

Susan Baldridge, the provost at Middlebury since 2015, has stepped down from her administrative post and plans on returning to the faculty following a one-year leave. **Jeff Cason** has accepted the position of interim provost, a position he will hold for 18 months.

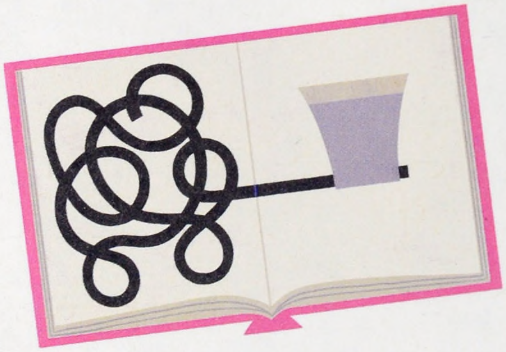
Middlebury's **School of the Environment** is going abroad. For the first time since its founding in 2014, the six-week program will convene in a site other than Middlebury, Vermont—7,678 miles away, to be precise. The 2018 session will be based in China's Yunnan Province, with dual sites in Dali (a small city at the foothills of the Himalayas) and Kunming (the province's capital and largest city).



The **Dave Saward** era of men's soccer at Middlebury has officially concluded. Over the summer, Saward announced that this season—his 33rd at the helm—would be his last, and his squad sent him into retirement in fine fashion. Middlebury won two-thirds of its contests this year, advancing to the NESCAC championship game and returning to the NCAA tournament in November after a seven-year absence. Saward's 359 career wins are the most in the program's history. Assistant Alex Elias '08, who was a member of the Panthers' national title team in 2007, became the head coach of the program on January 1.

Middlebury's **Museum of Art** recently acquired a 17th-century still life painting by a newly discovered woman artist. Signed by Anna Stanchi in 1643 and acquired at auction by Middlebury in 2017, the painting represents the museum's first "Old Master" painting created by a woman. The term refers to the trained artists, or so-called Old Masters, who worked in Europe prior to the 1800s and belonged to an artists' guild. To learn more about recent acquisitions by the museum, see p. 27.

Professional political agitator **James O'Keefe** came to Middlebury—the town, not the College—in late November, speaking before a couple dozen people in a Courtyard Marriott conference room. Prior to his arrival, a group claiming College affiliation spammed the email inboxes of faculty, staff, and students, inviting all to the event. It turned out that the group was a chimera or sorts, with no students (or faculty or staff) claiming membership or knowledge of it. In any case, O'Keefe came and left town without incident.



Shedding new light on an old classic, **Michael Katz's** recent translation of Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* is receiving critical acclaim. Harvard professor William Mills Todd III calls the work "a major contribution to the dissemination and understanding of the Russian novel." On a recent Sunday evening, Katz read from his work before a rapt audience at the Vermont Book Shop. Though retired from the undergraduate classroom, the C.V. Starr Professor Emeritus of Russian and East European Studies still teaches at the Bread Loaf School of English. Among the courses he leads: the Art of Literary Translation.

January brings a new speaking competition to Middlebury. The inaugural **Spencer Prize in Oratory** will be open to first-year students and facilitated by Oratory Now, Middlebury's public speaking organization. Students will compete within their Commons, with five Commons champions duking it out for the grand championship to be held in Robison Concert Hall in February. The event is named for the late John Spencer, a faculty member for 35 years, who vigorously promoted the art of public speaking among his students.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORIS LORA

Q & A

Victor Filpo '16 moved around a lot as a child and young adult, living in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Florida, New Jersey, New York. He attended high school in New York City, earned a Posse Scholarship, and graduated from Middlebury in 2016 with a degree in Japanese studies. Now an admissions counselor, Filpo talks to Matt Jennings about being a person of color in America today.

We've talked a bit off-the-record about how you grew up. You moved around a lot, there weren't a lot of positive role models in your life, you were in a vulnerable place . . .
I needed a place where I could safely be me. A liberal arts school was that place. Middlebury was that place. And then, instantly, I met my Posse class; and my Posse mentor, Deb Evans; and [Dean] Ann Hanson, who was also a Posse mentor. And I've been raised by this village.

Was it difficult to adjust to life in Vermont?
There's a lot to like about Vermont. Now, there are aspects of rural living that are not convenient. I can't walk outside at 11:00 p.m. and get Salvadoran food like I can in New York.

You can't do that at any time.
[Laughs] True. Exactly. But more than the rural nature of Vermont, the biggest shock was the racial aspect. I was raised in the Caribbean and in areas of the U.S. where there have been a lot of Latino and black populations or black Latino populations. They've just surrounded me my whole life. So I hadn't really thought about it until it was right in front of me: very few people look like me, have experienced things that I've experienced. I didn't expect for race to be this massive of an issue.

Right.
But here's the thing: I strongly believe that Middlebury has given me the tools to better understand issues involving race and inequality and prejudice and injustice. Looking back on my life before I came to college, my community was not devoid of these issues; I just didn't see it. But now I not only can see it, but I understand where it is coming from, and I better understand how to navigate this world.

Can you give me an example?
Of course. There's an issue with "blackness" in the Dominican Republic, especially when considering the country's relationship with Haiti. I remember a time in the second grade when we would rank the most beautiful people in our class, and it was always the light-skinned children who ranked the highest. There was an accepted correlation between attractiveness and light skin. And we just accepted that. Jump ahead to me sitting in a psychology classroom, and we're learning about an experiment in which children are presented with dolls—one black and one white. And the kids overwhelmingly chose the white dolls, even the black kids did. It was just like my childhood. But now, I was learning why that was, I was learning the psychology behind it. And its not just beauty standards, but redlining, incarceration rates, vestiges of colonialism. The concept of race permeates daily aspects of life. I was learning *why*.

Knowledge doesn't always equal comfort . . .
Knowledge can come with anger, it can come with sadness, it can come with feelings of betrayal. Does it have to be people who look like me, people who have these experiences?

So how do you deal with that?
Everyone deals with it differently. But the commonality is, if you are someone who lives with a marginalized identity—and in some cases it's a combination of marginalized identities and not just one—there are many spaces and interactions that can make you feel like you don't belong. That said, I'm proud to be a person of color; I'm proud of who I am. I've learned how to be empathetic, and how not to *other* others.

You've spoken about how we need to move beyond individual actions and expressions and toward a more collective position of support and understanding . . .
That hasn't been easy for me to do. As a young person of color, speaking my mind can put me in a precarious position, but I am so heartened when people have told me how much it means to hear me say that. That's the collective expression of support and understanding that Middlebury deserves. It's that village, it's an example of being a part of a community.

I see people struggling—here and everywhere—and I want to fix that. I've struggled, too; Middlebury hasn't been easy, but I've found people who care for me and love me, and it has been a formative experience that has made me stronger and smarter. I want that for everyone.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL DAHM

DOWNLOAD

Why I Love Adele Givens

By J Finley, Assistant Professor of American Studies

She was a woman self-possessed. Her swag, the broad smile that never disappeared. When she graced the stage to perform on HBO's *Def Comedy Jam*, I felt like she was talking directly to me, as if we were the only ones in the room. It was midnight on a Saturday and I was around 10 years old. The volume on the old RCA console TV was turned down so low I strained to hear, and peals of laughter threatened to explode as Adele Givens, my favorite comedian, joked about women's bodies, sexual desire, and pee in a way that titillated my young, immature mind. Her humor drew me in as if we were kinfolk—she may as well have been one of my aunts or older cousins regaling me with the secrets of womanhood, what it's like to be older, wiser, to have the power to make people listen and laugh at the same time. "I know what you're thinking," Givens mused after a particularly raunchy bit, and I repeated along with her (and still do, re-watching her routines), "She's such a f—ing lady!"

How could a person be so unimpeachably funny? How did she manage to speak directly to *me* from that stage? I didn't understand it at 10 years old, of course, but I know now as a scholar of humor that the performer/audience connection that marks good stand-up comedy derives from a behind-the-scenes crafting of words and their ephemeral performance. The laughter she created when I was 10, and that continues to draw me in as a scholar, comes from Givens's cultural material, as well as her comedic dexterity, jokes so well crafted that their preparation is imperceptible. What I most love about Adele Givens is the sense of being brought into a uniquely black woman's space, suffused with familiarity, and a hint of illicitness—like going on a ride with your aunt to pick up milk, eggs . . . and a pack of cigarettes.

NEWS

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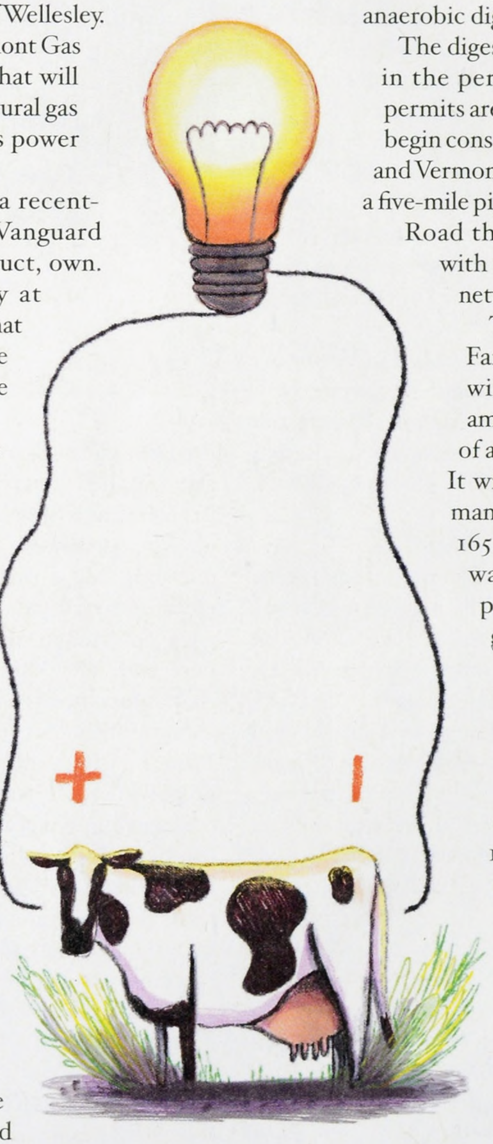


MIDDLEBURY HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT with a local farm, a Boston-based energy firm, and a state utility to form a unique partnership that will help reduce the College's carbon footprint.

The quartet of Middlebury College, Goodrich Family Farm of Salisbury, Vermont; Vanguard Renewables of Wellesley. Massachusetts; and Vermont Gas has initiated a project that will introduce renewable natural gas (RNG) to Middlebury's power plant.

Under the terms of a recently signed agreement, Vanguard Renewables will construct, own. and operate a facility at Goodrich Family Farm that will combine cow manure and food waste to produce RNG.

Gas produced by the farm-powered anaerobic digester will travel by pipeline to Middlebury College's main power plant. Middlebury has agreed to purchase the bulk of the facility's output. Vanguard currently owns and operates three anaerobic digesters located in Massachusetts.

"We are constantly looking at new ways to make our energy sources more sustainable and diverse, and the digester project is a great opportunity to do that," said David Provost, executive vice president for finance and administration.

"In 2016, the College reached its goal of carbon neutrality. We want to maintain that goal and keep improving on it. The digester will enable us to further decrease our use of carbon-based fuels."

Beyond the renewable energy produced by the digester, the facility will create high-quality liquid fertilizer that will reduce the farm's reliance on chemical fertilizers. The farm will also benefit from lower energy costs, free heat for farm use, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and an annual lease payment for hosting the anaerobic digester facility.

The digester project is currently in the permitting phase. Once permits are in place, Vanguard will begin construction on the digester and Vermont Gas will start work on a five-mile pipeline along Shard Villa Road that connects the farm with the company's pipeline network in Addison County.

The Goodrich Family Farm anaerobic digester will produce the largest amount of energy or RNG of any digester in Vermont. It will process 100 tons of manure from the farm and 165 tons of organic food waste per day. Vanguard plans to source the organic food waste from local and Vermont-based food manufacturers, including Cabot Creamery.

The Goodrich Farm digester will produce 140,000 Mcf per year. (An Mcf is 1,000 cubic feet of renewable natural gas.)

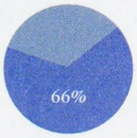
The College will buy 100,000 Mcf of the gas from Vanguard, and Vermont Gas will purchase the remainder.

Once the digester is operating, the College will use oil at its heating plant only as a backup energy source during extreme cold weather or other emergency situations. —*Sarah Ray*

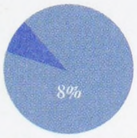
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES. ILLUSTRATION BY ANNELISE CAPOSSELA

Art, Acquired

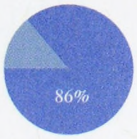
Middlebury's Museum of Art is celebrating its 25th anniversary, a quarter century that has witnessed not only the establishment of a named museum and its own space in the Mahaney Center for the Arts, but the growth of a robust teaching collection of world-class art. Originated as the Johnson Gallery in 1968 and housed in the Johnson Building, the museum moved to its new digs with around 2,000 items in 1995. Now with more than 5,500 items in its permanent collection, the museum is thriving. Here, we examine a year in acquisitions.



Percentage of permanent collection acquired since 1992



Percentage of permanent collection acquired in 2017



Percentage of 2017 acquisitions that are photographs

399

Photographs acquired by the museum in 2017

54

Prints acquired by the museum in 2017

6

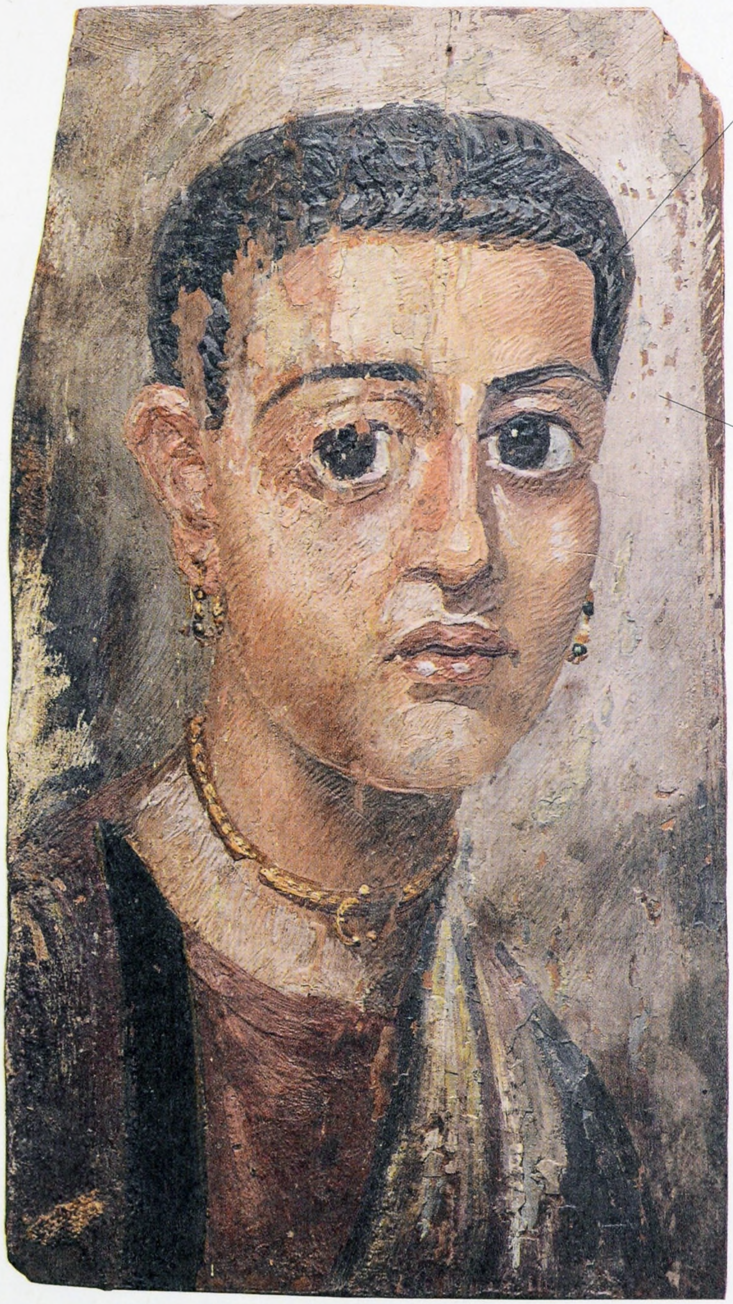
Watercolors and drawings acquired by the museum in 2017

5

Sculptures acquired by the museum in 2017

1

Painting acquired by the museum in 2017



Fayum Portrait of a Woman One of the museum's most recent acquisitions, this portrait of an anonymous Egyptian woman dates from the early second century. Originally fitted onto the wrapped mummies of its subject, the encaustic (hot wax) painting is now mounted on a modern backing.

Painting Provenance Fayum portraits—named for the artificial oasis where many were excavated—are among the typical artifacts of Roman Egypt. This item was excavated by a German Egyptologist in 1892. It resided in a German collection until it was seized by the Nazis. After time in a Swiss museum, it was restituted to the descendants of its original owners in 2015. It was gifted to the museum in 2017.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

OBITUARIES

A Pair of Losses

MIDDLEBURY MOURNED THE DEATHS of a pair of faculty members in recent months. Juana Gamero de Coca, an associate professor of Spanish, died unexpectedly in early October, while Stanley Bates, a professor emeritus of philosophy, died at the beginning of December after a brief illness.

A highly respected teacher and scholar, Gamero de Coca began teaching at Middlebury in 2004. She was appointed to a tenure-track position as assistant professor of Spanish in 2006 and was tenured in the spring of 2012. Gamero de Coca taught at all levels of the curriculum, from first-year seminars to the language sequence to elective courses in literature, film, and culture. At the time of her death, she was teaching a 300-level course titled Spain in the Globalized World and a senior seminar titled Culture and Mental Illness.

"Juana's courses and scholarship are examples of thinking outside the box," said Nadia Horning, associate professor of political science. "She taught her students to appreciate literature as a vehicle for exploring the social realities that all societies grapple with. In so doing, she did not shy away from painful subjects, and I find it impressive that she helped students explore their 'selves' through the prism of language and cultures foreign to most of them."

Bates arrived at Middlebury in 1971 and continued to teach and advise philosophy students long after his retirement in 2008. Widely known for his understanding of Kant, Nietzsche, and Wittgenstein, he was named Middlebury's Walter Cerf Distinguished College Professor in 1996.

"Stanley was a philosopher not only by profession but in the whole of his being: his mind was open and tirelessly curious, never dogmatic, always careful in forming his opinions, always ready to revise them, and he was relentless in the search for truth," said his close friend and colleague Victor Nuovo. "This was evident in the way he approached death: quietly, unafraid, and with a keen intellectual interest."

Obituaries for both can be found on p. 90 and 93.

QUOTATION

"I have no stories of fancy places, no idea that's going to cure anything, no history of hard times that is going to make anybody cry. What I do have is myself, and that is enough."

—**Nia Robinson '19**, delivering the talk "We Are Not as Lost as We Think We Are" at TEDxMiddlebury 2017. (She was wrong. There were tears.)

PICTURE

CHAMPS ONCE AGAIN The Middlebury field hockey team captured its second national title in three years—and third in the program's history—defeating Messiah College, 4–0. The four-goal margin of victory was the largest in NCAA Division III championship game history. In its four tournament games, Middlebury outscored opponents 16–1.

The Panthers won 20 games this season, tying the school record, set in 2015, for wins in a season. The Panthers also won the NESCAC championship, overpowering Trinity College, 5–0, in the conference title match-up.

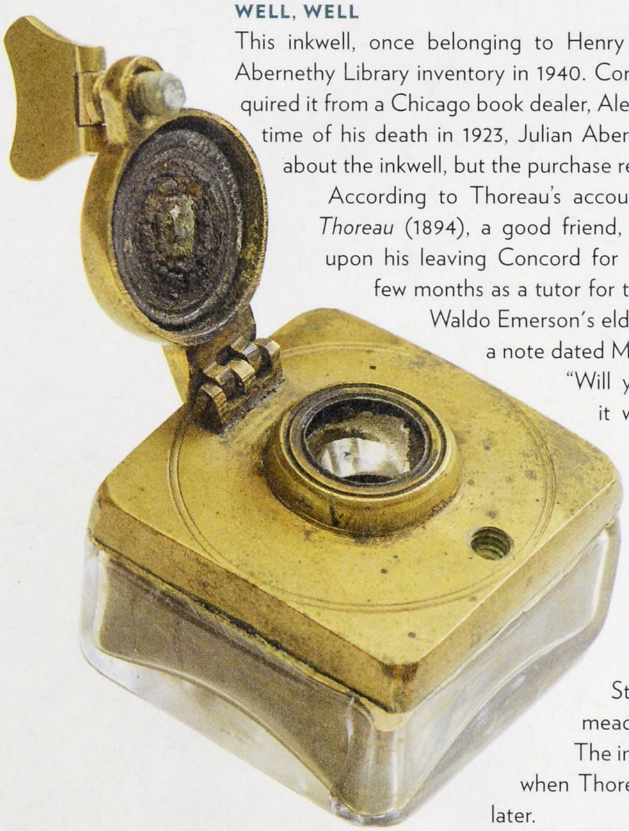
The national championship is the school's 34th overall since athletic teams began competing in national tournament competitions in 1995.

In the weeks following the season's conclusion, a trio of players were honored by being named national All-Americans. Junior forward Grace Jennings and senior defender Lauren Schweppe were both selected to the Division III All-American first team. Senior forward Annie Leonard earned third-team accolades.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN SOMMERS II

UpFront

ARCHIVE



WELL, WELL

This inkwell, once belonging to Henry David Thoreau, first appears in the Abernethy Library inventory in 1940. Correspondence suggests the College acquired it from a Chicago book dealer, Alexander Greene, in the early '20s. At the time of his death in 1923, Julian Abernethy was corresponding with Greene about the inkwell, but the purchase record has not been found.

According to Thoreau's account in *Familiar Letters of Henry David Thoreau* (1894), a good friend, Elizabeth Hoar, gave him the inkwell upon his leaving Concord for Staten Island, where he worked for a few months as a tutor for the children of William Emerson, Ralph Waldo Emerson's eldest brother. Hoar included with her gift a note dated May 2, 1843:

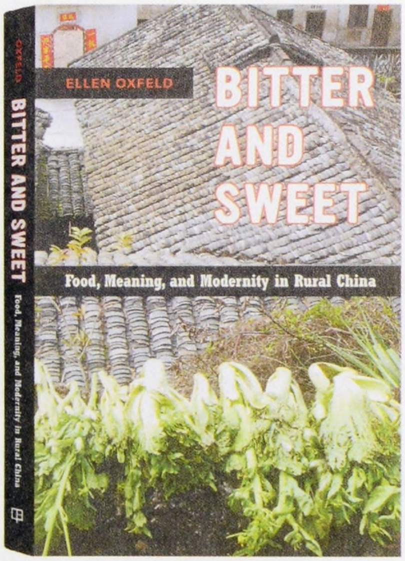
"Will you take this little inkstand and try if it will carry ink safely from Concord to Staten Island? And the pen, which, if you can write with steel, may be made sometimes the interpreter of friendly thoughts to those whom you leave beyond the reach of your voice,—or record the inspirations of Nature, who, I doubt not, will be as faithful to you who trust her in the sea-girt Staten Island as in Concord woods and meadows."

The inkwell and pen may have come in handy when Thoreau moved to Walden Pond two years later.

Bitter and Sweet: Food, Meaning, and Modernity in Rural China

By Ellen Oxfeld, Gordon Schuster Professor of Anthropology

Review excerpt from *FoodAnthropology.com*


OXFELD
BITTER AND SWEET
Food, Meaning, and Modernity in Rural China
ELLEN OXFELD
BITTER AND SWEET
Food, Meaning, and Modernity in Rural China

Bitter and Sweet is a rich and detailed ethnography that makes a convincing case for following food through its transformations as it is created, exchanged, and consumed to reveal myriad themes of contemporary social life, what I would call a "gustemological" approach to culture. Though Oxfeld doesn't discuss this explicitly, I think that her book is an excellent reminder of the ongoing importance of a holistic approach based in deep knowledge of a particular place that incorporates both historical and ethnographic perspectives.

This book would make for an excellent choice in courses on food and culture, as well as for any scholars interested in a window onto contemporary China and its recent historical transformations as seen through the lens of food discourses and practices.

NUMBERS

The first trails were cut into Worth Mountain in 1934, making what would become the Middlebury College Snow Bowl one of the first ski areas in Vermont. For generations now, the Snow Bowl has been a place where the nation's best collegiate skiers and casual weekend ski bums, as well as beginners and former champions, can be found together enjoying one of the gems of Middlebury.

20

MINUTES OF TRAVEL TIME FROM MIDD TO THE SNOW BOWL

17

DESIGNATED TRAILS

6

DESIGNATED GLADES

600

SKIABLE ACRES

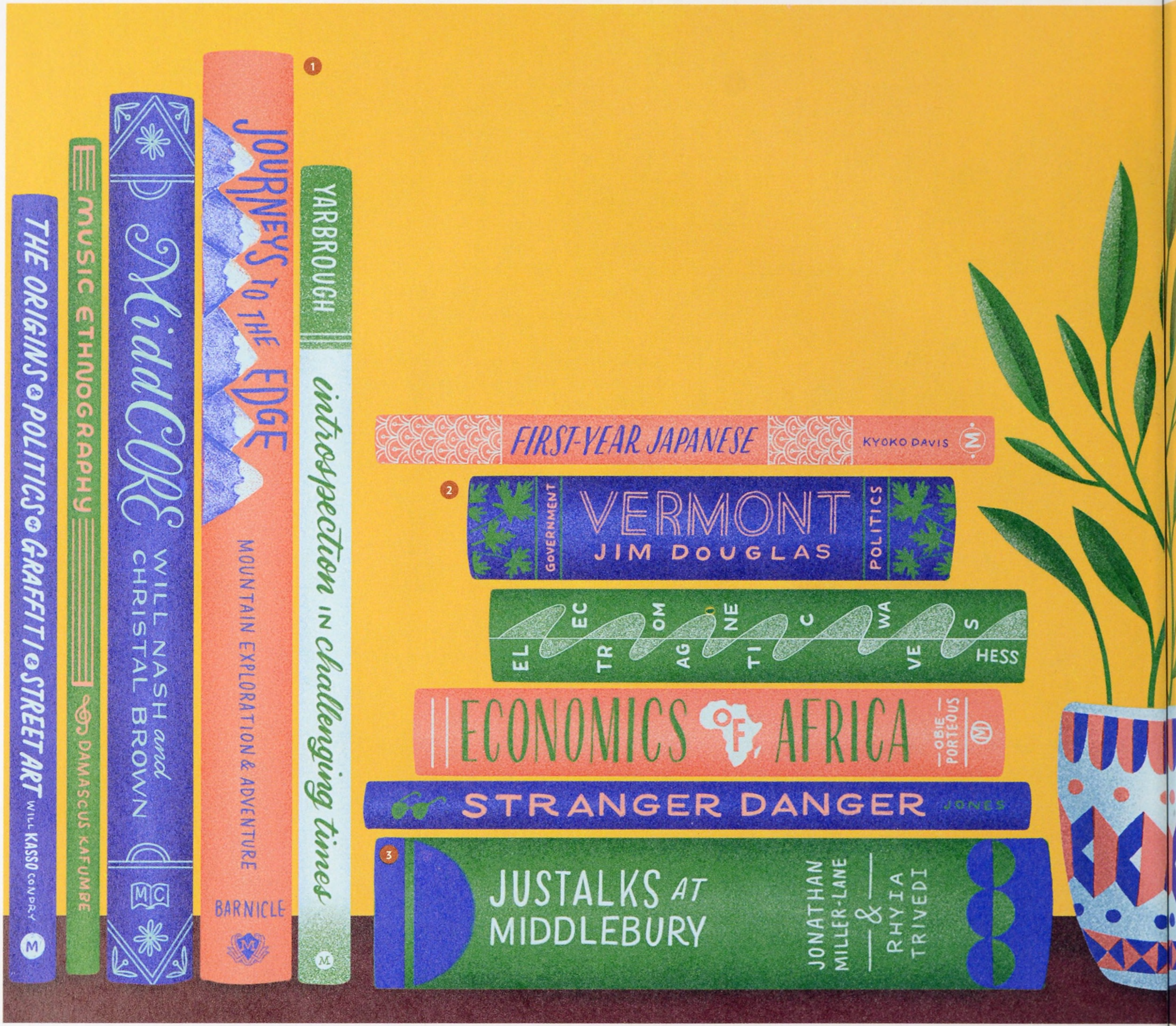
1,000

FEET OF VERTICAL DROP

1

FIELDSTONE FIREPLACE THAT PREDATES THE LODGE IN WHICH IT IS NOW FOUND

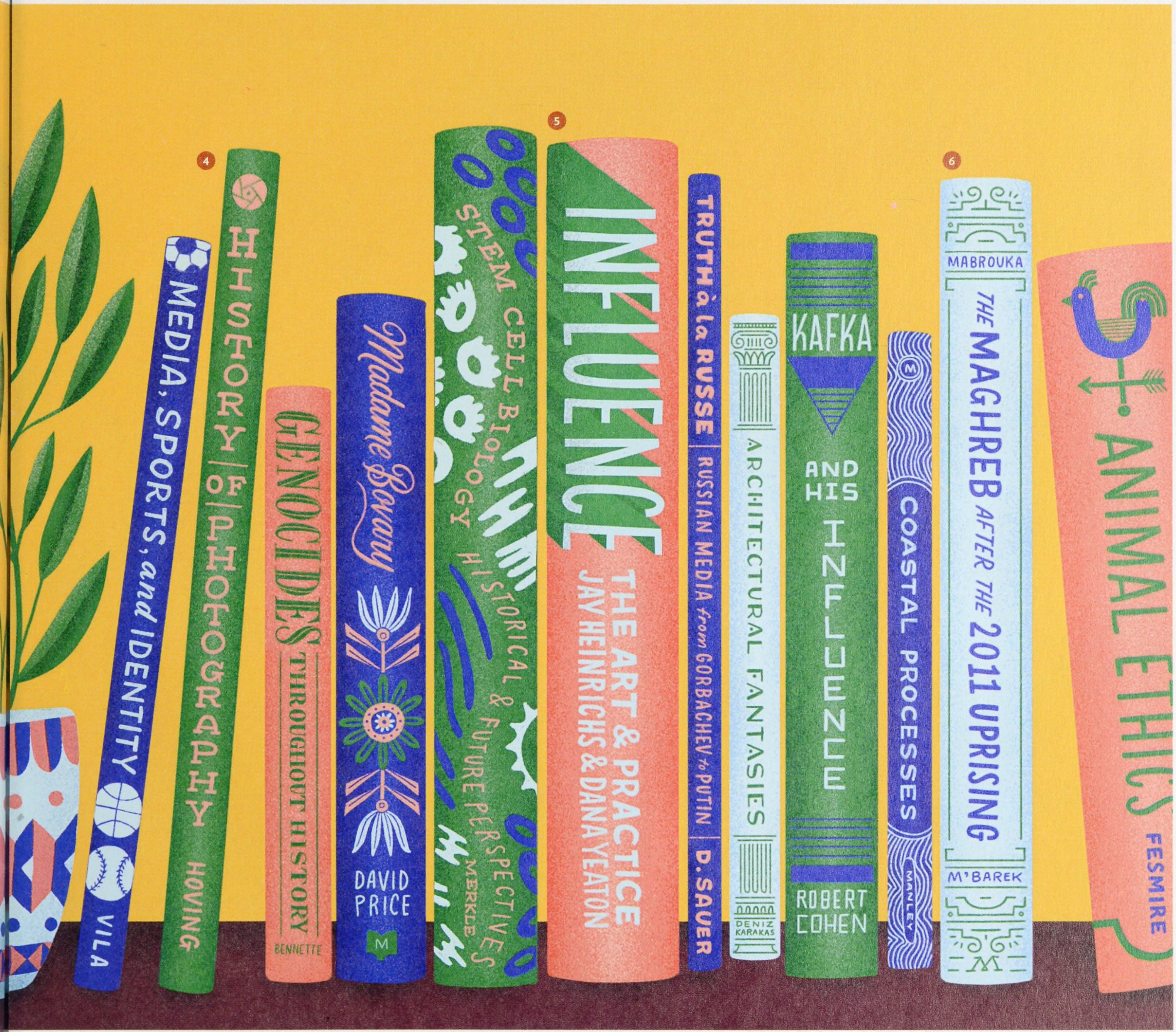
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD BALFOUR


1
THE ORIGINS & POLITICS of GRAFFITI & STREET ART
WILL KASSO CONDRY
M
MUSIC ETHNOGRAPHY
DAMASCUS KAFUMBE
MiddCORE
WILL NASH and CHRISTAL BROWN
MC
JOURNEYS TO THE EDGE
MOUNTAIN EXPLORATION & ADVENTURE
BARNICLE
M
YARBROUGH
introspection IN challenging times
M
FIRST-YEAR JAPANESE
KYOKO DAVIS
M
2
GOVERNMENT
VERMONT
JIM DOUGLAS
POLITICS
ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES
HESS
ECONOMICS OF AFRICA
OBIE PORTEOUS
M
STRANGER DANGER
JONES
3
JUSTALKS AT MIDDLEBURY
JONATHAN MILLER-LANE & RHYIA TRIVEDI

Of Courses

It's easy to succumb to a daydream about J-term courses. Faculty—cultivated from the Middlebury ranks and from the world at large—craft sessions expertly suited for a month of immersion, while students have the luxury of finding a class that most piques their interest and giving it their attention for a cozy 30 days. It reminded us of curling up with a good book for a weekend. So if J-term were a bookshelf stocked with titles that appealed to any sensibility, what would you choose?

ILLUSTRATION BY FRANCES MACLEOD


MEDIA, SPORTS, and IDENTITY
VILA
4
HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY
HOVING
GENOCIDES THROUGHOUT HISTORY
BENNETTE
Madame Bovary
DAVID PRICE
M
STEM CELL BIOLOGY
HISTORICAL & FUTURE PERSPECTIVES
MERKLE
5
INFLUENCE
THE ART & PRACTICE
JAY HEINRICHS & DANA YEATON
TRUTH à la RUSSE
RUSSIAN MEDIA from GORBACHEV to PUTIN
D. SAUER
ARCHITECTURAL FANTASIES
DENIZ KARAKAS
KAFKA AND HIS INFLUENCE
ROBERT COHEN
M
COASTAL PROCESSES
MANLEY
6
MABROUKA
THE MAGHREB AFTER THE 2011 UPRISING
M'BAREK
M
ANIMAL ETHICS
FESMIRE

① JOURNEYS TO THE EDGE
Middlebury Commons dean Scott Barnicle has a yen for outdoor adventure, an enthusiasm he brings to bear in a course tailor-made for J-term: an exploration of adventurous pursuits throughout American cultural history.

② VERMONT GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
It's said that state government in Vermont is small and accessible. Want an example? The instructor for this course, alumnus Jim Douglas '72, was the 80th governor of our fine state. Accessible, indeed.

③ JUSTALKS
The student initiative dedicated to building an empathetic and self-reflective community at Middlebury is now a course. Education studies prof Jonathan Miller-Lane teams up with Rhiya Trivedi '12 (one of the founders of JusTalks) to lead the class.

④ HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Spending a month immersed in the history of photographic images? Sign us up. Kirsten Hoving uses photographs from the Museum of Art's collection to illustrate the history of the medium from its inception in 1839 to the present.

⑤ INFLUENCE: THE ART AND PRACTICE
Theatre professor Dana Yeaton '79 and influencer-extraordinaire Jay Heinrichs '77, author of the best-selling book *Thank You for Arguing*, devised this course, part of Middlebury's recent embrace of the practices of rhetoric.

⑥ THE MAGHREB AFTER THE 2011 UPRISING
Like the Vermont politics course, this class brings to bear some personal insight from the instructor. Mabrouka M'Barek was elected to the Tunisian parliament following the Tunisian Revolution.

Envisioning Middlebury

How would you describe Middlebury on its best day? And what does that best day look like tomorrow? And the day after? These are the questions a community and institution wrestled with for the better part of 18 months. We now have a framework to help answer those questions.

DATA DESIGN BY TIFFANY FARRANT-GONZALEZ

THE LAST TIME Middlebury adopted a strategic plan, it did so in the spring of 2006 with the introduction of Knowledge Without Boundaries. This plan specified three strategic goals and three strategic priorities—and a host of recommendations. Eighty-two of them, to be exact, enough to fill a 102-page hardcover book. The plan was bold, chockful of tantalizing items broad (adopt a new mission statement that reflects our aspirations and future directions) and narrow (search for creative ways to reduce reliance on private vehicles). There was a lot to be excited about and a lot to do. Unfortunately a global recession that burst on the scene in 2008 and lingered into 2009 reset priorities—both for Middlebury and across higher education. A lot has been learned since then, knowledge brought to bear in Middlebury's latest strategic initiative.

When President Laurie Patton announced an institutionwide effort called Envisioning Middlebury in the spring of 2016, she invited the community to engage in a yearlong conversation, work that would serve as a guide to the development of a strategic plan. But for the first year, she emphasized, "the conversation [would be] the strategy." From the outset, Envisioning Middlebury was designed to be a different sort of planning process. Yes, there were committees—two of them, a steering committee and an advisory committee, comprised of faculty, staff, students, and administrators from throughout all of Middlebury's programs and locations—charged with developing a revised mission statement and strategic directions. Yet their work was iterative, building off the conversations unfolding throughout Middlebury, conversations that took shape through surveys and speaker series and focus groups and community gatherings that emerged organically, from the roots up rather than from the top floors of Old Chapel.

The result is a new strategic framework officially adopted by the Board of Trustees in October. That Middlebury's strategy for the future is predicated on a framework rather than a plan should signal how different the approach has been. Envisioning Middlebury is nimble and wide-ranging, not a list of tasks or recommendations for shiny new things, but an active strategy that requires continual participation by faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Said Laurie Patton, when the framework was adopted by the trustees: "Envisioning Middlebury represents a powerful vision for the future. It guides us rather than tells us. We didn't set out to create a checklist of things to do over the next decade. The world doesn't work that way anymore; the emphasis needs to be on acting strategically every day, because the ideas and challenges will never stop coming. This framework is built to sustain us for many years."

In these pages we introduce Envisioning Middlebury to you. We know that you lead busy lives, and for many these lives unfold far away from the Champlain Valley of Vermont or the Monterey Peninsula in California. If we're being honest, we know you're not sitting around on pins and needles, eagerly awaiting your alma mater's latest strategic initiative. But here's the thing: when you take a look at what is happening at Middlebury and how the institution is thinking about and preparing for the future, we're confident you will be excited and energized, and, we hope, eager to join in.

Annotating the Mission Statement

When the Board of Trustees ratified a new strategic framework for Middlebury, it also officially adopted new mission statements—for the institution, as well as for each individual entity: the College, the Institute, the Language Schools, the Schools Abroad, the Bread Loaf School of English, and the School of the Environment. All of the statements can be found at envisioning.middlebury.edu. Here, we annotate the institutional mission statement, the first mission statement that is inclusive of all of Middlebury's academic programs.

THROUGH A COMMITMENT TO IMMERSIVE LEARNING, WE PREPARE STUDENTS TO LEAD ENGAGED, CONSEQUENTIAL, AND CREATIVE LIVES, CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND ADDRESS THE WORLD'S MOST CHALLENGING PROBLEMS.

1. IMMERSIVE LEARNING

You hear a lot of talk about immersive learning in education circles these days, with the predominant focus on pedagogical uses of technology. At Middlebury, though, immersive learning has been part of the core of what we do for generations. The Language Schools was founded on this principle and continues to embrace this ethos today through the Language Pledge. You can find immersive learning practices in undergraduate pursuits as diverse as a Geographic Information Systems seminar and the winter term musical at the Town Hall Theater. And can you find a learning situation more immersive than a summer studying literature on the Bread Loaf campus or attending a history class, taught in German, at a university in Mainz?

2. STUDENTS

As the mission statement for the institution, students, in this case, are not only the 2,500 undergraduates who attend the College and are on the Vermont campus from September until May, but also the 700 students at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, the 1,500 students at the Language Schools, the 400 students at the Bread Loaf School of English, the 25 students at the School of the Environment, and the 300 students at our Schools Abroad.

3. ENGAGED, CONSEQUENTIAL AND CREATIVE

Engaged, consequential, creative. These are subjective adjectives, but surely they resonate for a reason. They resonate when you think about that John Elder course that nurtured in you a fervent commitment to lifelong learning. They resonate when you think about that Middlebury Institute graduate who is one of the world's foremost experts on cyberterrorism or the Bread Loaf alumna who teaches on a Navajo reservation—and brings the world to her students and her students to the world through Bread Loaf networks. A life of consequence and meaning, fueled by creativity, is instilled in our students throughout their educational experience—it's the field hockey player, the dancer, the neuroscience major, and the social entrepreneur who discover or enhance a particular passion and are then ready to apply the same focus and discipline and joy to whatever comes next.

4. CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

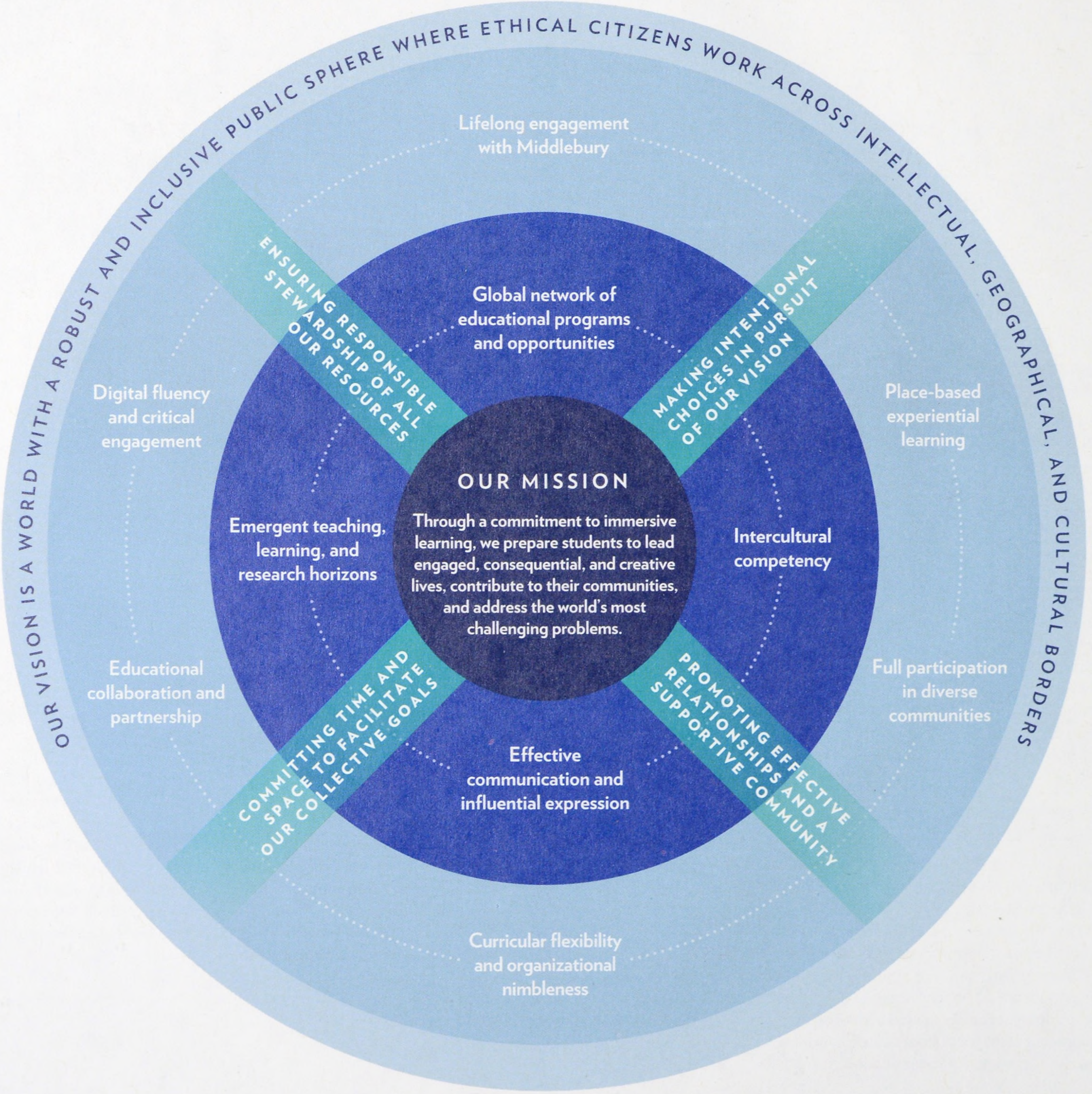
When we talk about community, we could be talking about your neighborhood in Chicago or we could be talking about, well, the Earth. Environmental stewardship, civic engagement, transnational outreach are all ways in which we present students with opportunities to serve the greater good. Think about the students who volunteer at Addison County's Charter House, who travel to Latin America during spring break and engage in service learning projects, who design an NGO that upends conventional wisdom on sustainable development. Think about the students who—with time and space and effort and ingenuity—can create an organization that starts a global movement to combat climate change.

5. WORLD'S MOST CHALLENGING PROBLEMS

The loftiest of goals, yet one that is also intended to be relative to environment and experience. One may be working in the White House, tasked by the president of the United States with leading the negotiation of a global climate accord, while another leads a classroom of fourth graders in a public school in the Bronx. Each has been prepared to seek out and tackle challenges found the world over.

Our New Strategic Framework

Our new strategic framework is the result of engagement, conversation, and collaboration across every part of the Middlebury community. Middlebury is now moving forward together as an institution under these new institutional guidelines.



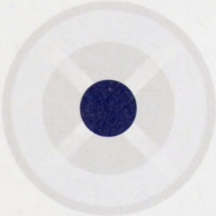
OUR VISION IS A WORLD WITH A ROBUST AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPHERE WHERE ETHICAL CITIZENS WORK ACROSS INTELLECTUAL, GEOGRAPHICAL, AND CULTURAL BORDERS

OUR MISSION

Through a commitment to immersive learning, we prepare students to lead engaged, consequential, and creative lives, contribute to their communities, and address the world's most challenging problems.

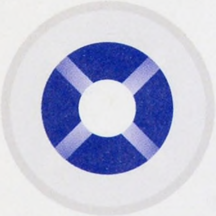
ENSURING RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF ALL OUR RESOURCES
MAKING INTENTIONAL CHOICES IN PURSUIT OF OUR VISION
COMMITTING TIME AND SPACE TO FACILITATE OUR COLLECTIVE GOALS
PROMOTING EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS AND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY
Global network of educational programs and opportunities
Emergent teaching, learning, and research horizons
Intercultural competency
Effective communication and influential expression
Lifelong engagement with Middlebury
Digital fluency and critical engagement
Place-based experiential learning
Educational collaboration and partnership
Full participation in diverse communities
Curricular flexibility and organizational nimbleness

An Explainer



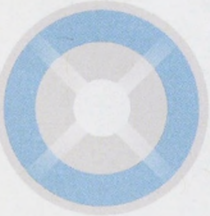
MISSION

Middlebury's foundational and enduring educational purpose. This statement of mission is the first to be inclusive of all of Middlebury's academic programs (though each program has its own new mission statement as well). Think of the mission as the answer to the question: What is Middlebury on its best day?



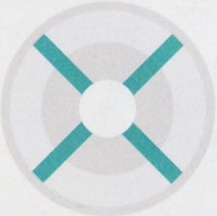
DISTINCTION

What distinguishes Middlebury from most other institutions. Note that this term is singular, and that is intentional. The four elements distinguish Middlebury in external comparisons to other institutions, but are not meant to signify internal strengths. That is, Middlebury's global network of educational programs and opportunities sets the institution apart from institutions that do not have this network, but it doesn't necessarily signify that this network is better or stronger than, say, Middlebury's science offerings (which are commonly found at most liberal arts institutions).



DIRECTIONS

The work Middlebury needs to do to achieve its vision in support of the mission. The directions arise from identified strengths at Middlebury and represent strategic steps the institution must make to allow the defined vision to become reality.



PRINCIPLES

Guides to how Middlebury should go about its work. Arising from more than 500 pages of submitted material (survey results, conversation transcripts) that informed the planning process, these identified principles will help guide how Middlebury pursues strategic opportunities.

VISION

The world that Middlebury is trying to create. This statement of vision is more dependent on time and context than the mission statement. Given what Middlebury is right now and considering what the future may hold, where does the institution need to go?

Current Initiatives

While the new strategic framework is designed to evaluate and plan for future initiatives at Middlebury, one needn't look far to discover existing projects and programs that speak to the values and ideals that inform the institution's strategic direction. The new framework builds upon—and enhances—existing strengths at Middlebury. We offer a handful of examples to illustrate this belief.

SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT (SOE)

A six-week immersive summer program that combines courses in environmental studies with leadership training and field experiences, the SOE is just the sort of transformational program that the framework is designed to facilitate. Created to confront pivotal questions such as "How will you lead in a time of change?" the SOE is the latest initiative at Middlebury to adopt place-based experiential learning (the school moves this year from Vermont to Yunnan Province, China), while fully embracing Middlebury's mission of leading engaged lives while addressing the world's most challenging problems.

MIDDCORE

Middlebury's four-week leadership and innovation program was conceived as an intensive winter term course and has since expanded to also offer a summer session (Monterey becomes the new summer home of MiddCORE this year). Take a look at descriptors in the Distinction ring—all can apply to MiddCORE. Further, the elements of MiddCORE align directly with Middlebury's efforts to achieve its vision: organizational nimbleness, curricular flexibility, and educational collaboration and partnership, all expressed in Middlebury's strategic Directions.

META LAB

A recent project emanating from the Middlebury Institute's Mixed-Methods Evaluation, Training and Analysis (META) Lab provides social network and geospatial analysis to combat gang crime in neighboring Salinas, a salient example of the convergence of digital fluency and experiential learning in a diverse community.

BREAD LOAF TEACHER NETWORK (BLTN)

A hallmark of the Bread Loaf School of English, BLTN is a professional-development network of teachers (current and former Bread Loaf students), working together with their students and with Bread Loaf faculty and staff to design and engage in innovative teaching and learning practices. In many aspects, the BLTN has been remarkably prescient in its embrace of digital fluency and intercultural competency and as an emergent teaching and learning resource.

How We Got Here

"The conversation is the strategy." That's what Laurie Patton said about the first year of the Envisioning Middlebury process. She said that the process was designed to engage all of Middlebury's campuses, locations, and constituencies, and by exploring the many dimensions of Middlebury—some traditional, some newly complex—the challenges and opportunities that the institution will face in the years ahead would become evident. Whatever the plan may become, she said, would be guided by this work.

Where We're Going

So, we're done, right? Uh, no. Remember in the introduction to this feature, how Laurie Patton is quoted as saying that Envisioning Middlebury "guides us rather than tells us"? Well, that guidance is just beginning and will be continuing into the future. As we said at the outset, the plan is not a set of tasks laid out for the institution to tackle. Rather, it is an active framework, through which all strategic decisions will be filtered. Some of those initiatives will be at the top of the institutional pyramid, so to speak.

These goals and efforts are ones that will allow Middlebury to build on its distinctive strengths; a handful are being considered by the Board of Trustees this year, with potential adoption in the months to come. Other goals might be less resource intensive and could be generated from across the institution. We see this happening today with the move of the School of the Environment from Vermont to Middlebury's Schools Abroad site in Kunming, China. And then there are grassroots goals, many of which were identified in the community conversations and which the framework is intended to facilitate on a continual basis. (The Oratory Now program, which is led by Theatre Professor Dana Yeaton, is an example of the type of program or initiative that could arise from these goals.)

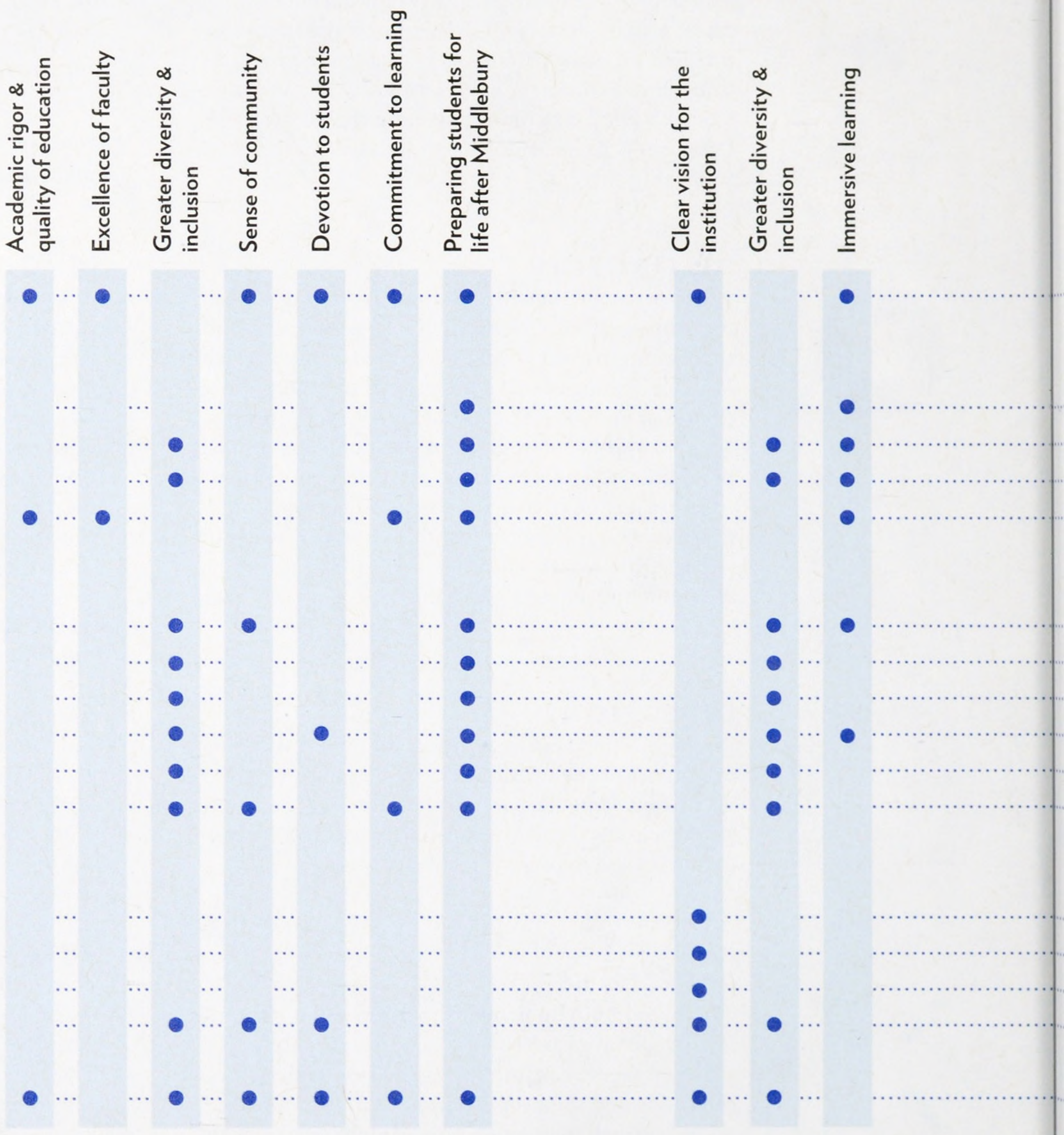
That's Envisioning Middlebury. It is ongoing, as President Patton said. "It is a framework built to sustain us for many years."

THE DIRECTIONS SURVEY

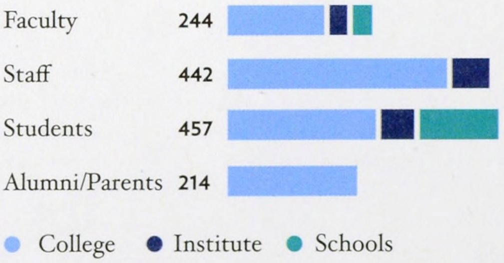
More than 1,200 people offered opinions on Middlebury's strengths and weaknesses, while also identifying defining characteristics of the institution.

FACILITATED CONVERSATIONS

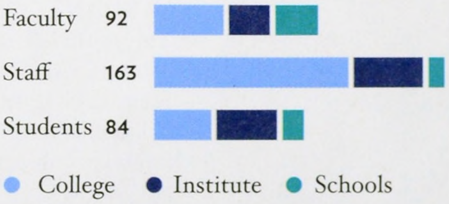
Nearly 700 people attended one of the 39 focus groups held around the country. From these conversations three dominant themes emerged.



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Hundreds of people organized community conversations—21 gatherings in all—that ranged from discussions about the arts to STEM, contemplative pedagogy to work-life balance.

Mapping to the Framework

After a year of conversation, the greater Middlebury community produced what amounted to 500 pages of material for the steering committee to consider. The result? The building blocks of the framework consist of the prevailing themes and directions and insight generated by the community.

	Sustainability & environmental stewardship	Transcending traditional boundaries	Emphasis on well-being & mindful leadership	Ability to speak & listen freely	Integration of creativity & arts throughout institution
OUR MISSION	●				●
DISTINCTION					
Global network of educational programs and opportunities		●			
Intercultural competency		●			
Effective communication and influential expression		●	●	●	●
Emergent teaching, learning, and research horizons	●	●			●
DIRECTIONS					
Place-based experiential learning	●				
Digital fluency and critical engagement				●	
Educational collaboration and partnership					
Full participation in diverse communities			●		
Curricular flexibility and organizational nimbleness		●			●
Lifelong engagement with Middlebury					
PRINCIPLES					
Making intentional choices in pursuit of our vision			●		
Ensuring responsible stewardship of all our resources	●		●		
Committing time and space to facilitate our collective goals			●		
Promoting effective relationships and a supportive community				●	
OUR VISION	●	●		●	

21 CONVERSATIONS HELD

During the course of a year, groups of faculty, staff, and students gathered in Vermont and Monterey to discuss issues most important to them. Unlike the facilitated conversations, these gatherings were entirely self-directed.

For additional information about Envisioning Middlebury, visit envisioning.middlebury.edu.

Tales of Two Cities

J. M. Tyree '95, the author of *Vanishing Streets: Journeys in London,* and **Joseph Pearson '97**, the author of *Berlin,* are your guides to a pair of European metropolises as you've never seen them before. **Illustrations by Mark Hoffmann**

POSTCARD FROM LONDON

When left to my own devices in London, I liked to ride the buses. Alone, I sometimes rode all afternoon, just thinking and looking out. I liked to write while on the bus. From Finsbury Park I happily traveled to the end of the line in any direction: Archway, Wood Green, Northumberland Park, Hackney Wick, Waterloo Bridge, Trafalgar Square, Battersea Park. A bus pass furnished an inexpensive way to tour the city and included the additional advantage of views of passing street scenes, especially if the bus had an upper deck and you could snag a seat at the front by the large windows. These windows fogged up nicely during rain showers and sometimes smashed into the branches of the older trees that line the roads, if the trees hadn't been trimmed recently, or if the driver was more experienced and hugged the curb very closely as the bus approached its stops.

The overheards on buses were priceless.

"I'm scared of London," one American boy said to his father on the Number 4 as it passed by St. Paul's Cathedral. His baby sister was humming "London Bridge Is Falling Down." Then she said, "Lots of people are going down to London because today's a sunny day."

Another time an older Cockney couple rode my bus through the city from St. Paul's along Fleet Street, chatting away like they were visiting London as tourists after a long absence in Australia, or outer space. The couple on my bus delighted in calling out the names of things we passed, as if they were touching a mental rosary of remembered sites from the distant past, offering a guided tour of their memories.

"Millennium Bridge."

"Fourteen years ago that bridge was swinging so badly you wouldn't dare walk across."

"Devil Tavern. Demolished seventeen some-odd."

"Look at that shop! Two suits for one hundred fifty pound."

"Nobody wears suits anymore."

"Except for weddings."

"And funerals."

"Fancy sitting in front of a Monet at the Courtauld for an hour?"

I guessed that this couple had gotten hold of Freedom Passes, which provided public transport for pensioners at no cost. The unemployed also received a discount on travel. This little act of decency always struck me. It might not be your fault if you lost your job, and you might need to spend time on the bus looking for work.

George Orwell, in *The Lion and the Unicorn*, described Englishness in terms of "solid breakfasts and gloomy Sundays, . . . green fields and red pillar-boxes." I would add the London buses. There was even a reality TV show about trainee drivers—*The Big Red Bus*—which featured a tearjerker episode with an Eastern European single mom passing the challenging road exam. Your average London bus driver was a combination of X-wing pilot, threading tricky turns and blasting through narrow lanes between buildings, and Zen master, overcoming the karmic obstacles of road rage, congestion, death-wish pedestrians, and the universal disorder of a city of nearly 9 million. Drivers trained in Jedi mind tricks and sometimes, I imagined, they closed their eyes and used the Force.

"They hunt in packs," my wife said about London buses one time as we waited for ours to arrive.

Waiting for a bus near the South Bank, I once overheard a father singing to his son one of the old Cockney songs: "Where did you get that hat, where did you get that tile?"

The much-mourned classic Routemaster bus had formed another example of pure Englishness. Its system proved difficult for outsiders to understand, but it remained completely efficient inside the parameters of its own bizarre logic. You entered and exited the old Routemasters through the back and a conductor came to you to collect your fare and dispense change, like a beer guy at an American baseball game. You could simply hop off the bus from the back whenever you liked, even when the Routemaster was in motion, because it had a doorless entrance with a metal pole to help you balance. This strangely brilliant design involved the premise that the bus could move along before all of the tickets were paid for, which presumably helped speed up travel. It employed two people, the driver and the conductor, rather than one.

The new Routemaster buses, with their glass display-case look—which treats their passengers as specimens in an exhibit (*Individuals Living in Areas Poorly Served by the London Underground System, c. 21st Century*)—generally went despised. What happened to all of the Routemaster conductors, who had to jostle their way through the crowds upbraiding fare-dodgers?

The view from the bus window transformed into the world's longest tracking shot.

The 236 floated like a bumblebee through a sticky day in July from Finsbury Park to Hackney Wick, shuttling folks through the maze of streets connecting Northeast and East London. I hoped to record a snapshot of yet another London by grabbing a seat on this single-decker bone-rattler and using the window as a kind of antitelevision set. I planned to walk out to the Olympic Park from the end of the bus line.

I always got a little excitable when the 236 left Islington and started zigzagging its way through the neighborhoods of Newington Green, Albion Road, and on into Hackney via Dalston. This bus was overcrowded and not air-conditioned. You paid the price for attempting to move east-west in a city that was designed for north-south travel. In some ways the 236 felt like a microcosm of London from the pre-Blair years, a little fishbowl containing those who had been left out of the picture. The route hit on the edges of some of the larger estates that had erupted during the 2011 riots, although of course the entire area was far from immune to the general lunacy of London's massive gentrification project.

I loved every minute of the journey on the 236 because it induced a trancelike meditative state peculiar to London buses. You could not go anywhere fast—at times you couldn't go anywhere at all. In Hackney you encountered the shock and delight of a seemingly endless city regressing into infinity. Inside Hackney, the urban fabric felt coextensive with the galaxy. A carefully ripped-up billboard had been repurposed by street artists as a *décollage* featuring *Employment Opportunities*—doing what, the sign no longer said. Under the rail bridge and farther east on Cambridge Heath Road, there stood a cheerful sign telling you what the council or a developer hoped would happen next: "Making an impact through deeper relationships." (In Islington I once stumbled on a sign offering "real housing for real people." Were there unreal people? Zombies, space aliens, vampires, foxes, cartoons, and fictional characters need not apply!)

The bus discharged old folks and sick people at Homerton Hospital, where they joined the walking wounded circumambulating the NHS facility. The genius of Homerton involved staying snug within a cloak of invisibility. Then came the mysteries of Kingsmead and the estates near the canal across from the grand development projects of the Olympic Park. Completing this bus journey, just beyond the Trowbridge Estate,

you had the place to yourself. A man you'd never see again paused on crutches with a quizzical look on his face, as if he wasn't certain where to go next. As Spinoza wrote, "By reality and perfection I understand the same thing."

—J. M. Tyree '95

Excerpted from Vanishing Streets: Journeys in London *by J. M. Tyree. Reprinted by permission of Redwood Press.*

POSTCARD FROM BERLIN

I AM WALKING TO A GRITTY INDUSTRIAL CLUB, through the warehouses and parking lots of East Berlin's rust belt. I reach the darkened façade of a former factory alongside the tracks of Ostkreuz (where the local party scene has moved since the tourists discovered that "super-club," Berghain). I clip around the building, take the back way, behind a pile of bricks or a broken wall of graffiti, past the fluorescent still-life of a security guard through a cubicle's window, past a vent that smells vaguely of poppers, until I hear voices as I turn the corner.

The line is long, and I chat with two British guys who drink Club Mate, a hipster stimulant, perhaps because they've also taken something that doesn't mix with alcohol. But they smell like *Döner* or perhaps *Gemüse Kebap*, so their stomachs are insulated for a good time. It's a summer night; the party's in the garden, the crowd heaving before the DJ. The moon is out, behind clouds; it's Caspar David Friedrich light. Or "Prussian" blue, that 18th-century color first invented in Berlin.

I see the British dudes again; they're very friendly, one grabs me on the shoulder, buoyed by the pulsing electronica, the movement of lights, lifted by the warm air, the stars above, the diversity and happiness of the crowd, and he tells me: "Amazing! This is Berlin!"

When I leave, it is already day—one of those amazing Berlin June days that start the moment you walk out of the club in the early hours. I am saturated with cigarette smoke and sweat and kisses. The now faint blue above softens the steely train tracks. I go home, shower, sleep for a few hours, wake up for brunch with my friends. We compare our evening adventures—you never know what is going to happen to you when you walk out of that door. We talk politics, sex, and the news. The *New York Times* Styles section has been extolling again how much Brooklynites love Berlin, and the blogs have responded by saying that since Berlin's been "discovered," it's now "over." Time to write the city's obituary because everyone's a tourist at Berghain! As a logical consequence, Berlin's "no longer the coolest city in the world."

We start discussing:

"Who moves to a city just because it's 'cool'?"

"I know a few people here who did."

"You're relevant just because you live in Berlin, didn't you know?"

"Better to say you're an artist in Berlin than unemployed and living at home in Bari."

"Judging a whole city based on the popularity of a nightclub doesn't make any sense."

"That's all people see when they come here, the city for them is a big nightclub."

"Berlin's the best nightclub in the world!"

"Not any more, apparently."

"They only see the *Technostrich*–"

"I don't even like riding my bike by there on a Saturday night."

"How many of them you think have been to the Philharmonic?"

"I think Berlin would be happy to discover it's 'over.'"

"Over? Tell that to the Greeks. They'd be happy if Germany's star dimmed a little."

"She means Berlin's over for the Peter Pans from Dalston."

"What they see of Berlin is not even my weekend, let alone my week."

It is perplexing the way the international press—*Rolling Stone*, the *Times*, *Vice*—weighs the status of Berlin's elusive "cool" based on the fortunes of a nightclub, on whether the nighttime itineraries of self-conscious club kids have been discovered by the masses. For those who actually live in the city, the dizzying array of concerts, clubs, festivals, and street parties is just an awesome backdrop to the everyday. But otherwise it is hardly of consequence. What matters is that Berlin's still a place where people can pursue their creative work with fewer pressures from the market than in other European capitals, and have the opportunity to do so in an urbane international environment where they are allowed to live decently.

What would cause Berlin to be "over"? If the conditions for its non-corporate lifestyle were suddenly to evaporate, there would be cause for concern. With property speculation and gentrification, this is the looming threat. But perhaps we have, after all, reasons to be optimistic. Despite the onslaught of gentrification, civic initiatives, such as rent control, are in place to protect the city's multi-income neighborhoods, and there are some indications things will sooner get better than worse. Let's hope.

It would be wrong to say that optimism is a peculiarly Berlin perspective, as Berliners love to *meckern*, or complain. Perhaps for too long it was incomprehensible to believe that anything German could be "cool." I sometimes think these Berliners don't always appreciate what an outstanding city they have. Berlin will be tested in the years ahead as Europe confronts rising populism, nationalism, security concerns regarding terrorism, and the uncertainties of Trump's foreign policy. But things here are, especially in the longer view of the metropolis's history, better. The city remains in many ways a provincial place, one that has not yet reconciled itself entirely to diversity, or the recent influx of creative folk. And yet, against the backdrop of what is Europe's foulest history, Berlin has left behind the worst—militarism, chauvinism, and murderous state racism—and emerged democratic and egalitarian, full of great institutions, for the most part welcoming refugees, taking the best of preceding eras—tolerance, historical mindfulness, and creative and intellectual dynamism. Berlin now needs to harness these achievements as we face an uncertain future.

Now, if we could only do something about those short, dark winter days. But then you bundle yourself against the wind, put on your headphones, and send sparks down the cold of the S-Bahn tracks with an electronic soundtrack, light candles in the windows, and count out the hours with strong dark coffee and good conversation—and in Berlin there is plenty. Meanwhile, in summer, you don't need to do much more than buy a bottle of cold Pilsner, ride your bike down the blooming canal bank—past where the Turkish-German families are grilling, the Kreuzbergers are playing boules, locals are loitering at the tables in front of the Späti—to the Admiralbrücke. There, you can sit with your back to the water, watch the street hum with love, and observe how on this beautiful bright night, as the Berliners put it, "everything's in butter"—*na, allet in Butta*.

—Joseph Pearson '97

Excerpted from Berlin *by Joseph Pearson. Reprinted with permission from Reaktion Books.*

The Best of Berlin and London, according to Pearson and Tyree

FAVORITE PARK

Berlin

Tierpark. This is the "animal park," or East German zoo. Berlin has at least two of everything: from the former West and former East. The Communists provided more room for their animals, so it's actually one of the few zoos that I enjoy visiting.

London

Clissold Park, which is in my favorite neighborhood of Stoke Newington. There is a pond and an aviary and a rose garden; you might encounter miniature deer on a visit. And when it's raining, the Clissold House cafe is the perfect place to while away time with a book.

FAVORITE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

Berlin

The Berlin metro system, or U-Bahn. It has bright yellow branding and has the ugliest seat patterns in the world—but this makes it lovable. As does the fact that there's an honor system to ride it—there are no ticket turnstiles—and it gets you quickly almost anywhere in Berlin's enormous space.

London

There is no better mode of transportation in London than the bus!

CULTURAL TEXT THAT BEST CAPTURES THE CITY

Berlin

There are too many to choose from, but one that comes to mind is the book *Alone in Berlin* by Hans Fallada. The plot moves all over the city, while a typical Berlin housing block, or *Mietkaserne*, is the centre of the action, with people from all walks of life and backgrounds occupying it. Fallada wrote the novel in 1946, encouraged by the Soviet authorities, about the Nazi period. There are plenty of historical problems with the text that lead to endless discussion about its status as an "anti-Nazi" text—and this is the kind of useful and historically engaged discussion I find also very "Berlin."

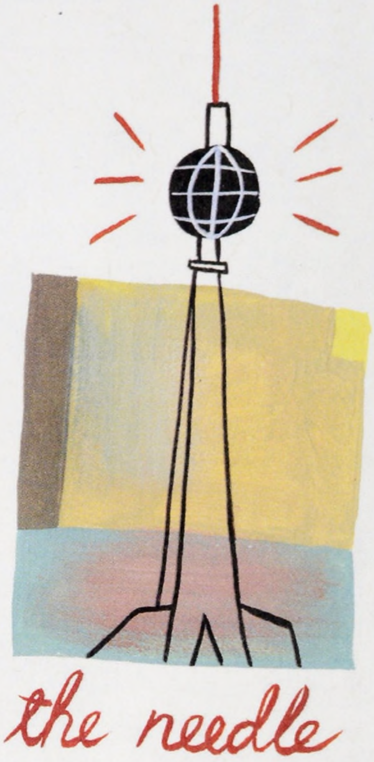
London

Apart from the obvious classics by Charles Dickens and Graham Greene, and contemporary writing by Zadie Smith and Iain Sinclair, I would have to mention a relatively obscure short film made by Robert Vas in 1959 called *Refuge England*. It's about a Hungarian refugee's first day in London as he attempts to navigate the vast city and find lodgings for the night. He knows nobody and he has only been given an address—Love Lane—where he has been told someone will shelter him. But he doesn't have the postal code, so he has to travel up and down the city all day visiting various Love Lanes in completely different neighborhoods. I love this film because it reflects a strangely fleeting tour of London's nooks and crannies while advocating for tolerance toward those fleeing from conflict zones.

FAVORITE LANDMARK

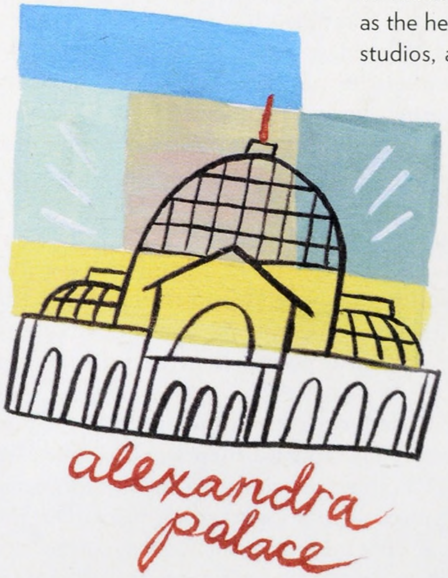
Berlin

I named my blog *The Needle* after the television tower in Alexanderplatz. Inaugurated in 1969 in East Berlin, the tower is about 1,200 feet and the tallest structure in Germany. It can be seen from all over the city, and is often used to get one's bearings when stepping out of a subway station. I appreciate that the television tower has had changing meanings: under the Communists, it peered threateningly over the city, surveilling the Berlin Wall. Today, it is sometimes lit up with bright colours and seems like Berlin's big disco ball, celebrating a city that loves electronic music and a good party. I find the Needle optimistic: it shows how sometimes things can get better.



London

Alexandra Palace is a trek from Central London, but its hilltop location commands the entire city, and you can see virtually all of London from here. Originally built as a People's Palace for leisure in the 19th century, it has served as a POW camp during wartime, as the headquarters for BBC television studios, and now as a venue for rock concerts, beer festivals, and ice skating. What's remarkable about Alexandra Palace is that nobody tore it down even though it had been neglected and crumbling away for decades. Now a museum of television is planned for the site. It's free to wander around, a truly public space where people from all walks of life and backgrounds mix, and the air is breathable.



FAVORITE MUSEUM

Berlin

The Neues Museum, with its Egyptian and early German history collections (including the sublime bust of Nefertiti), is a mid-19th-century building that was very badly damaged during World War II. Architect David Chipperfield restored the building, which reopened in 2009, leaving the war damage visible: the traces of artillery are on the walls, sections that were destroyed are built in luminous white to suggest absences. I love to be in a building that shows time passing, one that reflects poignantly on the objects from the distant past it contains.

London

The National Portrait Gallery is a museum that gets better and better as the visitor ages. I think when one is touring or when one is younger, it's easy to rush to prioritize the world-beating masterworks in the adjoining National Gallery by Rembrandt, Monet, and Van Gogh. But the Portrait Gallery excites for different reasons. For one thing, the whole idea of portraiture, and the ways in which the human face have been captured over time, becomes more and more intriguing. Another great reason to visit is the annual contest for the best new portraits, which attracts a wonderful diversity of subjects and artists and is also a decent way to keep in touch with some currents in contemporary art.

BIGGEST MISPERCEPTION ABOUT THE CITY AND HOW YOU WOULD CORRECT IT

Berlin

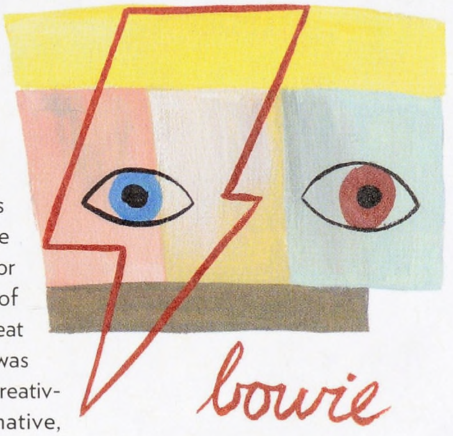
I think many people continue erroneously to associate today's Berlin with the Nazi capital, when it's been more than 70 years since the end of the war. Germany today is not Hitler's Germany. I think Germans have learned many of the hard lessons of fascism, because they have partially worked through their history as perpetrators. And I think other countries would do well to protect their democratic freedoms, privacy, and public goods, with as much vigilance as the Germans do. I think the best way to change stereotypes that people have about a country is to invite them to visit. Most people I know who visit Berlin—some with trepidation—end up wanting to move here.

London

London trumpets itself as the "most visited city" in Europe, which is both absurd and misleading. It is not a nice place to visit, but I would want to live there. I would feel bad for an American tourist who only had a few days abroad and chose to visit London instead of Paris, Rome, or Seville, honestly. The city center is miserably crowded, the weather often stinks, and the air is so polluted that I have to dust off my inhaler for our annual pilgrimage to my wife's hometown. I'd urge anyone visiting to get out of Zone 1 and see the areas where normal people actually live in their millions. It takes about 10 days to fall in love with the vast galaxy cluster of endless neighborhood charms, but once London takes hold of you it becomes your mistress forever. Even what's horrible about London—winter hat and gloves in June! four pounds for a pint of beer!—becomes lovely in the eyes of this beholder.

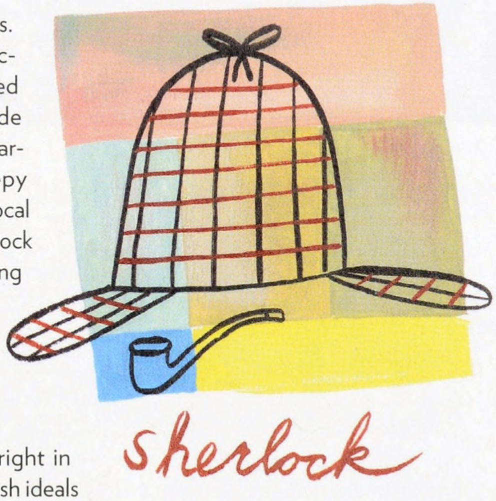
CULTURAL ICON THAT BEST REPRESENTS THE CITY

Berlin

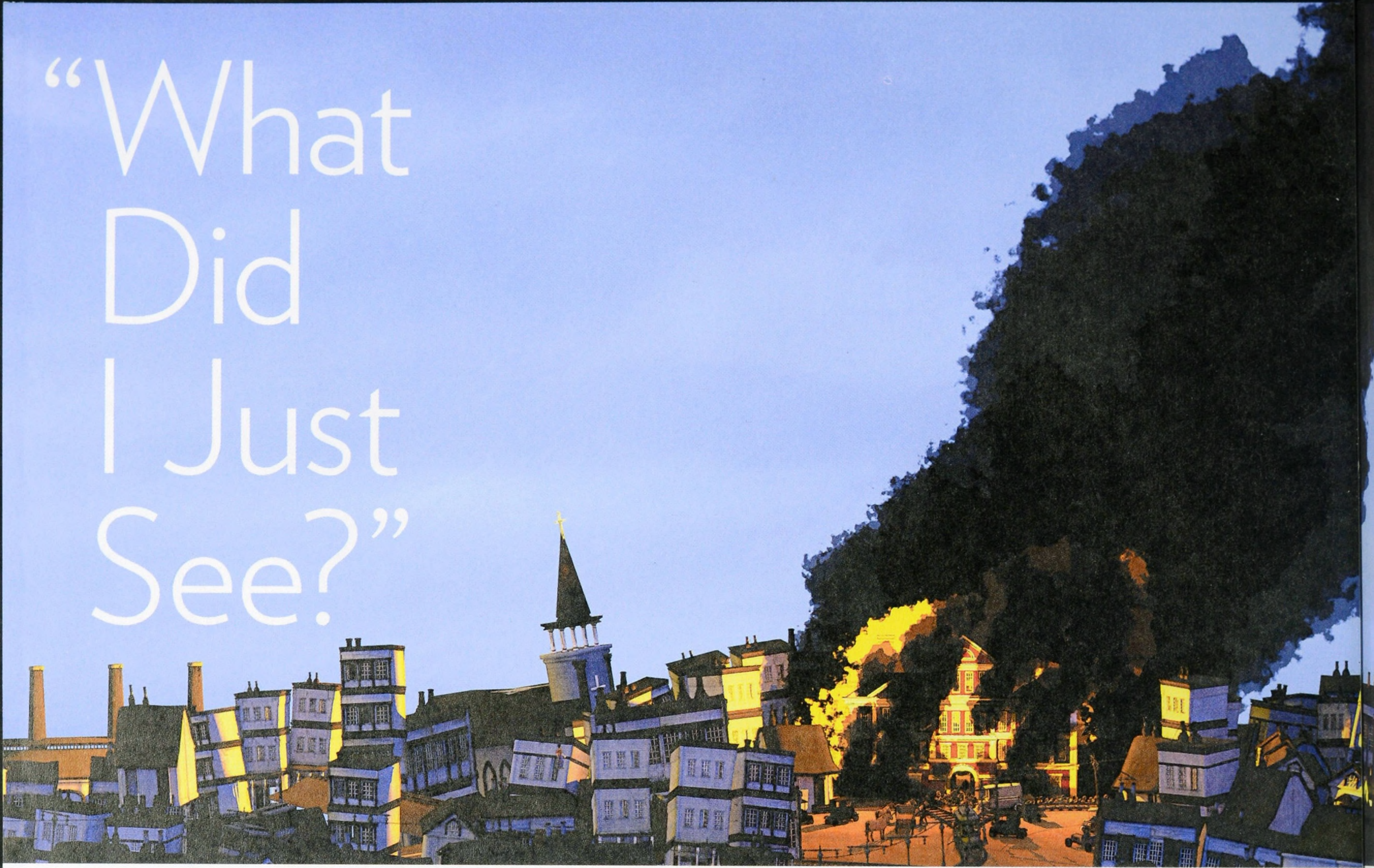


David Bowie, who lived and wrote his *Berlin Trilogy* here. Berliners have a place in their hearts for the track "Heroes"—it was inspired by a German band (Neu!), it has associations with the Berlin Wall, and the ephemeral melancholy of "just for one day" captures something of Berlin's slightly edgy and downbeat lust for life. And then Bowie was also experimental, an island of creativity, defying the gender-normative, and good at what he did.

London



Surely it's Sherlock Holmes. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective has spawned endless imitations and made England—and London in particular—the home of creepy crime stories, and murder a local cottage industry, from Hitchcock to television's Luther. It's fitting that London's icon would be a detective, since the entire city is a mystery and a maze that requires unraveling just to figure out where you are and what's right in front of your nose. The English ideals of being sensible under pressure and eccentric in one's private home are nicely summed up by Holmes.



“What Did I Just See?”

A schoolhouse fire in Cleveland shocked the nation in 1908 and then was largely forgotten to history—until now. With an academic treatment unlike any you’ve ever seen, scholar Michael Newbury, filmmaker Daniel Houghton ’04, and a team of students shine a new light on an American tragedy.

BY MATT JENNINGS

THE DAY WOULD BEGIN LIKE MOST ANY OTHER IN COLLINWOOD, OHIO, a rapidly industrializing suburb of Cleveland.

Its 8,000 residents would rise on this morning of March 4, 1908, with most of the men trudging off to work in the railyard that dominated the town or in the foundries and steel mills that had sprung up along the tracks.

Mothers would shuffle their children off to school, to the stately three-story building—just six years old—with its impressive masonry façade, its arched doorways, its high windows.

The children, about 370 or so, would trundle into the Lake View School, their footsteps and laughter echoing throughout the building as they tramped across the yellow pine floors—floors that gleamed due to the kerosene used to clean and polish them—and rushed up and down the grand, open front stairwell that rose from the basement all the way to the attic.

Lake View School was aesthetically impressive to behold; only later would the architects of the building admit that it was designed for tragedy.

By the time the sun set that day, March 4, 1908, 175 souls—all but three belonging to children—would be lost.

At around 9:30 on the morning of March 4, a fire broke out in the building. With all that wood acting as fuel, an inferno grew, a roaring beast of searing flame and thick smoke that was constrained by only one thing: the school’s brick walls. In a matter of minutes, the Lake View School in Collinwood, Ohio, had been transformed into a firebox, with its stately brick façade now functioning as a massive chimney.

The school had just two exterior doors; one was blocked by fire, which left a lone opening to serve as the main point of egress for the nearly 400 inside. First responders—mainly the parents of the schoolchildren,

who rushed to the building as word of the fire spread—would later speak of desperate attempts to free children from the massive pile of bodies that filled the only exit.

There was no hope to extinguish the blaze. Though there were plenty of cars in 1908, Collinwood's fire equipment was still drawn by horses, and when the fire broke out, the town's service animals were hitched to road-grading equipment, smoothing dirt roads more than a mile away. By the time the volunteer fire department arrived, it was too late to do anything but stare in horror. Less than an hour after the first spark, the fire in Collinwood had brought down the Lake View School.

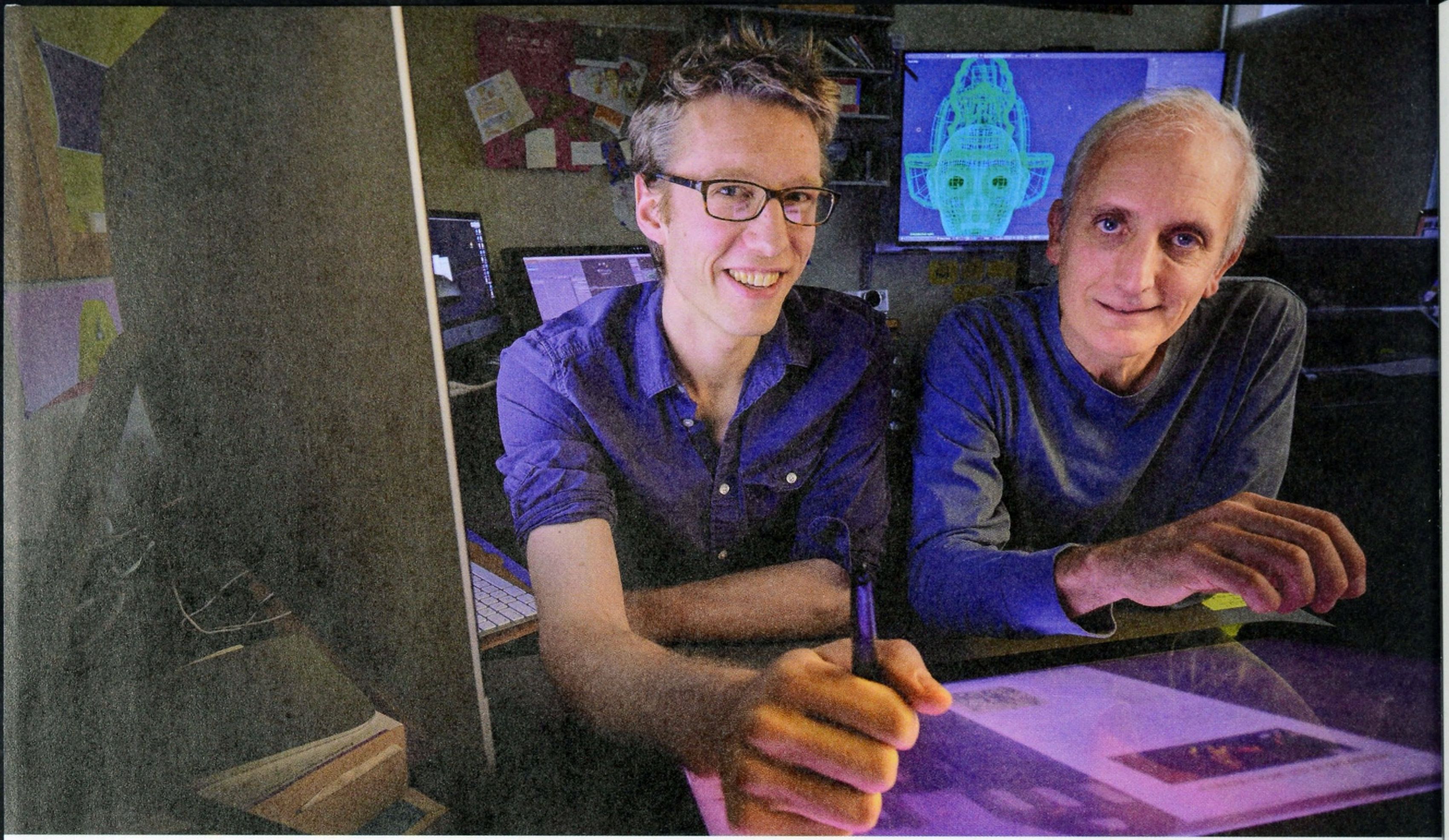
Though some bodies were impossible to identify, town officials ultimately declared that 172 children, two teachers, and one rescuer had lost their lives in the fire. Most of the deceased directly corresponded with the changing demographics of the industrial boom town: 85 percent came from families who had moved to Collinwood since 1900; 79 percent of the victims had fathers who worked in the railroads, in factories, in construction, or as day laborers; and 64 percent of the victims were from immigrant families.

In the days that followed, local and national media amplified the tragedy. Sensationalist headlines screamed ("ONLY ASHES OF DEAD NOW IN THE FIRE'S RUINS," the *Cleveland News*; "170 CHILDREN DEAD IN FIRE: Penned in Death Trap in School, Little Ones Are Killed by Scores in Sight of Their Parents," *Boston Post*). Teachers—seven of whom out of nine survived—were both lionized and scrutinized. The lone male in the building, the janitor, was initially cast as the villain and probable source of the fire; he was ultimately cleared of wrongdoing and emerged as a highly sympathetic character (three of his five children perished in the blaze). Even a movie emerged from the ashes. A Cleveland entrepreneur named William Bullock was one of the citizens who rushed to the scene, yet unlike everyone else, he did so with a movie camera. Bullock owned Cleveland's first movie house, and he subsequently screened scenes of the horror to captivated audiences.

And then the story of the Collinwood fire began to recede from people's consciousness. Not all at once, but gradually, until all that remained was a plaque at the site of the former school and some wispy, fragmented memories in the minds of some. By the turn of the next century, hardly anyone—even people in Cleveland—had heard of one of the deadliest school fires in American history.

About four or five years ago, Michael Newbury was researching disasters in America at the dawn of the 20th century. The American studies professor was particularly interested in how stories of these disasters—earthquakes, hurricanes, industrial accidents—were told, and he thought that perhaps his research would lead to a book of essays, a cultural history of disasters. He had been spending a little bit of time learning about an explosion at a flour mill in Minneapolis in the late 1870s when a document trail led him to another Midwestern tale, one that unfolded a quarter century later: the Collinwood fire.

Newbury was stunned. A Midwesterner himself, the Chicago native had never heard of the Cleveland disaster, even though the subject matter, the era, even the location were all areas of his scholarly interest. He quickly discovered why this was: the only professional scholarship on the fire is a 20-page pamphlet produced by the Cleveland Public Library in 2008,



The Collinwood project was a leap of faith for a pair who had never worked together: Daniel Houghton '04 and Michael Newbury.

the Collinwood fire had escaped the scrutiny of scholars for more than a century. So Newbury turned his gaze toward Cleveland.

Collinwood, Newbury discovered, had everything he was interested in. There was the tragedy narrative, of course—172 children incinerated in a preventable accident. But it was also a story of industrialization. A story of immigration. A story of sensationalist mass media. And it was a story that had not been examined or told, at least significantly, in 100 years.

"That's a rare thing to find." Michael Newbury and I are talking in my office in late November, and the wan smile he offers when speaking of this unlikely discovery is in keeping with a personality that can best be described as chill. Newbury has slightly sunken eyes, with a shadow of dark rings below each. His hair is tufted and white and never quite in place, though it's not entirely disheveled, either. He speaks smoothly and is quick to laugh, though in an understated way. Chill.

He tells me that the more he learned about Collinwood, the more interested he was in *that* disaster and less keen to work on his other finds—the explosion in Minneapolis, an earthquake in South Carolina, a shoe factory fire in Massachusetts. He says that by the spring of 2014, he was thinking about possibly pulling the Collinwood essay from his collection. Were he to focus not just on the fire itself but also on the greater contexts of the time and place, he would have enough material for a book-length manuscript; he saw potential for a book on an American disaster that had never been written.

At the same time, though, he had just submitted a different project proposal to a new initiative at Middlebury. That year, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation had granted the College $800,000 to support digital scholarship. The newly created Digital Liberal Arts (DLA) initiative featured a faculty fellows program that would provide faculty with funding while they were on academic leave if they used digital tools for scholarship. Newbury had thought he might want to use geographic information systems to analyze and digitally interpret that earthquake in Charleston, South Carolina. When the DLA steering committee responded to his proposal with clarifying questions, he told them he had changed his mind.

"I said, 'You know, this isn't actually what I want to do. I'm going to send you a completely different proposal,'" he tells me. "It was after the deadline, but I didn't care. I figured they could either approve it or not."

The new project would focus on Collinwood, though what it would be, Newbury admits, he didn't really know.

While Newbury's proposal was before the DLA and as he obsessed over Collinwood, he attended an evening screening of films produced by students in the Department of Film and Media Culture. Though he was there ostensibly to watch his daughter act in a short about Abraham Lincoln, he was wowed by another film, an animated piece titled *11 Paper Place*. The CGI animation about two pieces of paper that are ejected from a malfunctioning copier, dropping into a recycling bin where they magically transform into paper people and fall in love, would go on to win film festival awards and be honored by the streaming video platform Vimeo. But for Newbury, the film captured his imagination. *What if you were to use that medium, the medium of animation, to anchor a scholarly project?* He would subsequently bump into Daniel Houghton '04, then Middlebury's arts technology specialist and the director of *11 Paper Place*. He posed the same question to him, while probing further: What would students be learning? What would he be learning? What product would emerge?

Newbury didn't know this at the time, but Houghton was, as he would later tell me, "clinging to uncertain career prospects." His contract had

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRETT SIMISON

an end date, but he was also presented with the tantalizing opportunity to create an animation studio at Middlebury, at least in name. Though dedicated space for such a studio had not been identified, Houghton was told that if he had students interested in creating animated films outside of a classroom setting, he would be afforded the necessary time and resources to shepherd such projects. "The big risk was, if I couldn't find anything to do or if I couldn't encourage student work, the notion of an animation studio would be deemed a failure. At least, that's what I thought would be the case," he says. And then along comes Michael Newbury. "And we basically said, 'Let's do a thing.' Whatever that turns out to be," says Houghton, laughing.

While Newbury and Houghton conversed further, attempting to determine whether they could effectively work together on a project of indeterminate shape and scope, Newbury turned to his colleague Jason Mittell, who had been appointed the faculty head of the DLA. Mittell had been aware of Newbury's work for some time—he had read several draft chapters of the once-planned book of essays on disasters, he had advised Newbury on his original DLA proposal that focused on the South Carolina earthquake, and he had consulted with him on his first stab at a digital Collinwood project. "I think originally he thought he might want to create a three-dimensional model of Collinwood and have that model be interactive," Mittell tells me. (For various reasons, the idea of a Collinwood "video game" faded, not least of which had to do with the prohibitive cost of producing a quality gaming experience and the fact that Houghton, Newbury, and a team of recruited students were more interested in film narrative than games.) "But the core of his concept was the use of animation to visualize disaster. He told me the story of Collinwood, how so little was known of what actually happened, how there were all these sensational, often contradictory media reports, and he believed that a digital visualization narrative could best capture all the complexities of the subject.

"And that's what excited me the most," Mittell says. "It was the type of project that was unimaginable without the technology. And it was the type of project that played to the strengths that we have as an institution—in this case, moving images and sound in support of historical research."

The project that would become "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" was a go. Houghton recruited a team of students fresh off independent projects or animation courses with the flexibility of dedicating a year to one project; and he and Newbury began a series of conversations and debates about just what "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" would be.

WHEN TALKING TO NEWBURY AND HOUGHTON THESE DAYS, it's easy to forget that a few short years ago, they didn't really know one another. Speaking to them in my office one afternoon, they skillfully play off each other, one offering an anecdote that leads into another's story, or another gently amending one's recollection of a stressful event in a professional collaboration that has evolved into a genuine friendship. But a couple of years ago? They were essentially strangers, and this was one of the biggest unknowns and critical risks of their endeavor: Would they be able to work together?

The DLA was launched with "the idea that we want to encourage faculty to take risks, to do things they wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to do—not just the tools they work with, but how they think," Jason Mittell says. This ethos of risk taking can be liberating, sure, but it doesn't necessarily mean that those taking risks are comfortable with the process, especially in the moment. Which, of course, is the point.

For Newbury, scholarly work had always had one constant: solitude. "My mode for scholarly work had always been this: you go into a room, you soundproof it, you put a sign on the door that tells people to leave you alone, and then you close that door," he says with a chuckle that all but acknowledges he may be exaggerating slightly, but not by much.

"The model for this project was forced human interaction and all that entails," he continues. "There's a volatility that most academics aren't used to. I might want one thing out of this project. Daniel might want another thing. Each student might want their own thing. I remember thinking, 'Am I really going to want to deal with all of this?'"

Houghton had more existential concerns. "Yeah," he laughs. "I was asking to work on this one project, asking students to work on this project, for a fair amount of time. If, at the end, it all felt like a failure, whatever that might mean, and this was our first go at it, would I ever get another chance? Or would this all evaporate?" (And by "all" he's implying his dream of an animation studio.)

And informing all this angst? What Houghton and Newbury were attempting had never been done before. "I think it's fair to say we were in a form where there were not comparable models to follow," Newbury says. "Sure, there's a good model for making animation and a good model for building a website, but these things require expertise that most faculty don't often have, I certainly didn't have—managing a team, learning reasonably sophisticated computer coding, mastering the tools of animation. And then all is being employed in the service of historical scholarship."

He pauses. "There were a lot of places for us to fail," he says.

The formlessness of the project at the outset—"Let's make a thing"—which both Newbury and Houghton insist was critical both to the creative process and to figuring out how to work together, gradually began to take shape. "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" would consist of an animated film and a resource-rich companion website.

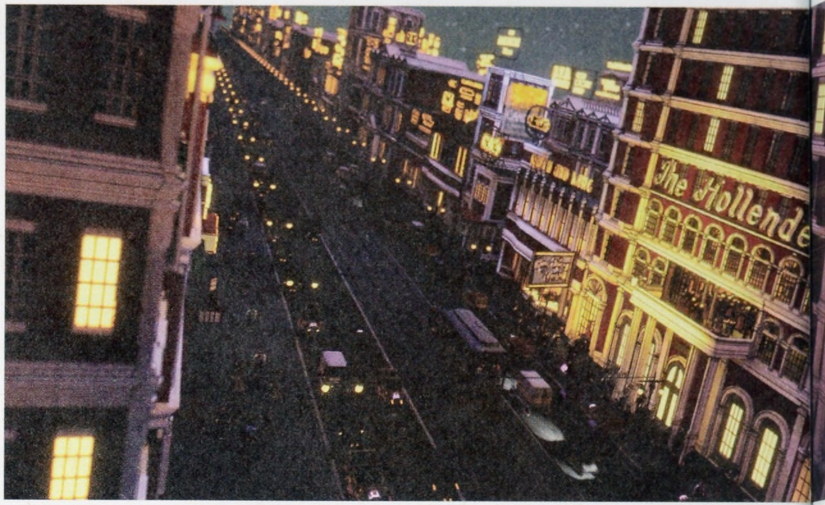
HOUGHTON SAYS THAT THERE CAME A POINT in the project's development when he would see what Newbury was producing for the website—Newbury was coding the site himself—and he would be simultaneously excited and relieved. "Knowing that the website existed felt like this safety blanket for the film," Houghton says. "If we didn't have a support team in a book's worth of articles, I think I would have been adrift in the content of the story."

But this wasn't always so. For the first couple of months, Newbury, Houghton, and a team of students would meet weekly for what essentially was a three-hour download session, part history seminar and part animation tutorial. ("It was just hanging out, until we were exhausted," Houghton says. Newbury glances his way and smiles. "We beat each other to a pulp.")

Newbury would bring drafts of chapters that would eventually make their way to the website. Each essay—on the history of mass media at the dawn of the 20th century, on educational standards of the time, on industrialization—was essential to understanding Collinwood and was something to be considered for the film. "For so long, I would just sit there and become convinced that it would be impossible to do anything less than a 90-minute film," Houghton says, dropping his head and slumping his shoulders at the memory of the moment.

"I think that might be where—if I were to pick a certain category of disagreement—I would say, 'Well, there's this other thing,' or 'This needs to be in there,'" Newbury says, as much to Houghton as to me. Houghton nods. "But we figured it out." And what emerged was contextual. There was the context of the Collinwood story itself—the time, the place, the conflicting stories of what happened that day—the context of the animation as it would exist within the website, and then the context of the entire project. Gradually, everything began to gel.

HOLLENDEN HOTEL, CLEVELAND, O.



THE HOLLENDEN, C. 1905, PRIVATE COLLECTION.

"The initial walls of suspicion came down," Houghton says. "And in its place became a trusting, working relationship, where you could make mistakes, inch toward the right path, whatever that undefinable thing is that is better than the last draft in a space where you're not being judged—"

"You're being judged," Newbury says, laughing, "but you really put up with it." Houghton laughs harder. "Right. Well, a space where you're not being despised."

"What did I just see?"

That's the thought I had the first time I watched the animated film *The Collinwood Fire*. (Please note: From here on, *The Collinwood Fire* refers to the film and "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" refers to the larger project.) Michael Newbury is pleased when I tell him this, as this is just the prompt the Collinwood team was hoping for.

"Our mantra from the start was 'Ken Burns on some kind of psychedelic drug,'" Newbury says. "It was never meant to be a documentary, to be seen as 'real.' But it was meant to be historical. It was meant to cast you into a place where you had to wonder about the accuracy of the history you were seeing."

Because that's at the heart of the Collinwood story, multiple questions with conflicting answers that have been posited over time. *Kids playing with matches started the fire. No, the negligent janitor did. The teachers were heroes. No, they weren't. The doors wouldn't open. No, the doors were wide open, there just weren't enough of them, and a stampede occurred.*

"The animation," Newbury says, "calls attention to the unreality of the narration." And it was up to Houghton and his students to pull this off. I visit him one afternoon in Room 216 of the Davis Family Library. This is now the home of Middlebury's Animation Studio. Consider it, if you will, the room that "Collinwood" built. After bouncing around from temporary quarter to temporary quarter in the Axinn Center—the corner of a computer lab, the basement edit suite, an overcrowded side edit suite—the Collinwood team moved to permanent digs for the last six months of the project.

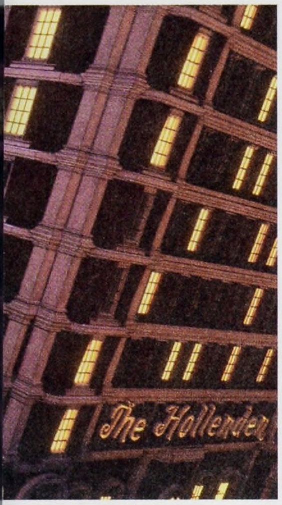
The studio has a comfortable, lived-in look with creative flourishes. There's the well-worn sofa, the large monitors, some toys and clay, the full-length mirror to better study facial expressions. *New Yorker* cartoons snake around the doorway, storyboards and sketches for current projects are taped to one wall, and there, above the south-facing windows and running the length of one wall, are stills from *The Collinwood Fire.*

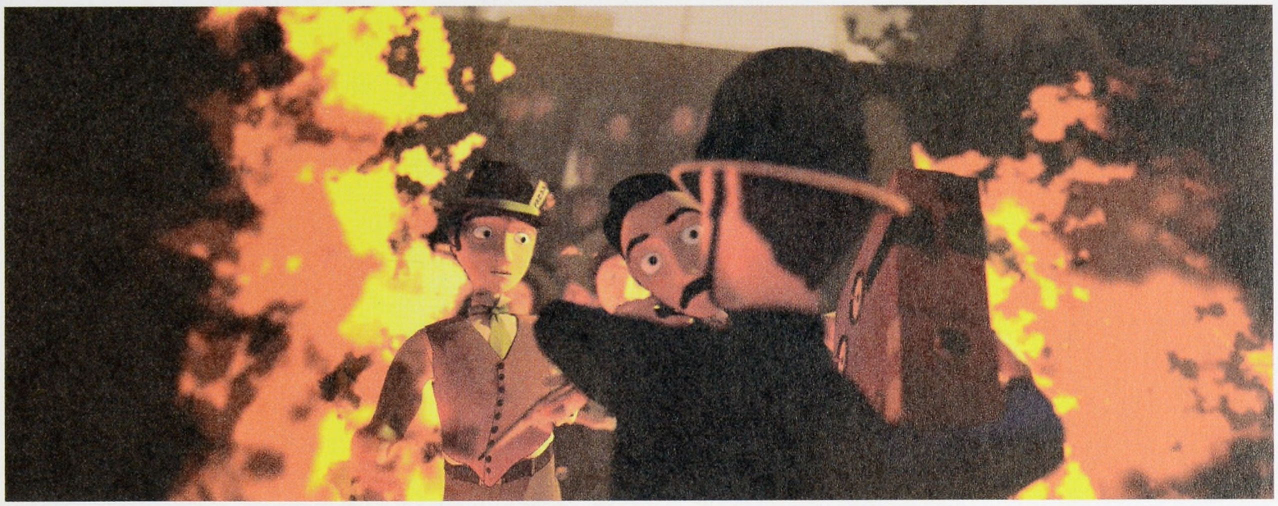
Wearing jeans, a flannel shirt, and black sneakers, Houghton doesn't appear to be much older than the students he supervises; he certainly looks at home in the space. (And he has a new title: Animation Studio Producer.) We get to talking about the film, and he says that one of the challenges at the outset was helping the students adjust to a different model of storytelling. He explains that most animated shorts function by focusing on "very small, carefully crafted moments. You usually have one or two characters who go through some sort of change, they experience a revelation, and then you're out. Collinwood was sprawling and epic and didn't present examples that were easy to show."

But the team had the time to figure it out—and to determine who was best suited for what aspect of the animation. Houghton speaks about his former charges the way a coach talks about athletes with special skills. Elise Biette '16 had a background in theater and costume design, and she meticulously researched the clothes of the era and designed the wardrobes. Maddie Dai '14 designed the buildings, including the introduction of one of the film's more surreal elements: having the interior walls of the burning school consist exclusively of newspaper accounts of the disaster. Jon Broome '16, a standout lacrosse player, focused specifically on the movement of the characters. Hosain Ghassemi '17, a molecular biology and biochemistry major, built a system to control several hundred of the animated characters in crowd shots. James Graham '15 worked as a prop master—he researched vehicles common to the Midwest in the early 1900s and designed the cars and trucks seen in the film—while also doing a lot of the camera work. (It's odd to think of animation using a camera, but of course it does, just not in the conventional sense.)

I ask Houghton about the style of the film and how he came to interpret Newbury's desire for a surreal approach that reflected the sensational storytelling of the day. "In my heart, I feel like a style should boil down to one thing, but this was different," he says. "Here we had this style collision between what one might call a graphic cartoon style and a historical photograph style." The style, he says, became that collision. And like everything else in the six-minute film, it is grounded within a historical context. "It *is* representational," Houghton says. "It was a time when newspaper representation and filmed images of disaster were colliding, when two worlds of an upper social strata and a lower social strata were colliding. And if this style functions correctly, it's representative while becoming invisible, as the audience engages with the story."

So I'll say this about *The Collinwood Fire*: It's magical. While there are conventional characters (most noticeably a newspaper reporter with a conscience and the filmmaker, William Bullock, utterly devoid of one), the main character is place, and not just the locus of the action (the school), but the gritty, exhaust-choked avenues of Collinwood and the exaggerated bright lights of Cleveland, just over the hill. The narrative is riddled with marvelous exaggerations and contradictions—some subtle and only learned about with further reading on the companion website;





The Hollenden Hotel, an entertainment hot spot in early 20th-century Cleveland, as depicted at the time, at left, and in the Collinwood team's surreality, center. At right, from the film: a policeman turns away a filmmaker's prying camera at the scene of the disaster.

others hiding in plain sight, such as when one particular action takes place right on top of a newspaper headline that describes the exact opposite of what you are watching. And the sound design by Danilo Herrera '18 speaks louder and more clearly than any spoken dialogue (of which there isn't any) would; it will take your breath away, and, more than likely, bring tears to your eyes at the film's conclusion.

"I have a problem with conventional notions of definitiveness," Michael Newbury says. He would define "definitive" as a large set of competing possibilities, rather than a magisterial, singular interpretation. This applies not just to the Collinwood disaster, he says, but to the very study of history. If this project does anything, he says, "I hope it encourages people to think of history as a process, rather than a collection of facts. Historical events should be consistently reevaluated, where systemic factors receive just as much scrutiny as proximate causes."

That's what you see when you visit the website. The film is there, naturally; it's the beating heart of the project. But the brain and central nervous system of "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" are the rich histories of the day and place arranged in chapters on the site; they are vignettes, of a sort, each making sense on its own but resonating with the others to form a greater whole. Newbury thinks of them as a series of contemplations. And if one is to ask you what happened at Collinwood, the answer is not kids playing with matches or the janitor running the boiler too hot or even a school poorly designed. The answers are many. They are in the film and they are on the site and they are left for you to interpret.

And here's the cool thing: that's beginning to happen. Tara Martin teaches history at Middlebury Union High School. Newbury's daughter was one of her students a few years ago, and Martin and the Middlebury professor got to talking about the project he was working on. Newbury asked if it might resonate with her students; absolutely, she said. But she was also thinking more broadly and began to research how the material could adhere to state and federal educational standards. Her work is now included on the site under the heading "teaching resources." Martin and Newbury have subsequently spoken at conferences for social studies teachers in Ohio and Vermont and Boston, and next summer Newbury will travel to Cleveland at the invitation of the curriculum and instruction manager for social studies of the Cleveland Public School system. He'll be speaking to the city's social studies teachers about how they can introduce "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" into their classrooms.

Collinwood is being forgotten no more.

I could have ended the story right there, don't you think? Well, there's one more person I believe you should meet. Last year, as *The Collinwood Fire* began to win awards at film festivals around the country, the media began to notice. In October 2016, the story of "The Collinwood Fire, 1908" was featured in the arts section of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. In the days that followed, Newbury began to get emails from people for whom the Collinwood disaster *was not* an unknown story. He heard from someone who grew up in the neighborhood decades after the fire and who recalled the story being a cautionary tale told by teachers after fire drills. He heard from a descendant of Collinwood's mayor in 1908. He heard from the great-granddaughter of one of the young girls who survived by jumping out a window. And he heard from a man named Bryan Smith. Smith, who now works at NASA as a director of space flight systems, is the great-grandson of Fritz Hirter. Hirter was the janitor at the Lake View School on March 4, 1908. He was the man who was first demonized and then embraced in the days following the fire. Out of his five children who attended the school, only two survived, one a young girl who would eventually become Bryan Smith's grandmother.

"I greatly appreciate Professor Newbury's contextual representation of what was going on in Collinwood in that time and on that day." I'm talking to Smith on the phone, and he tells me that he's a third-generation Clevelander. Though he grew up having Sunday brunch at his grandmother's house, the house she inherited from Fritz, which was a stone's throw from the former school, his familiarity was distinctly familial. ("My parents' generation might remember something. My generation? Not really. And certainly not my kids'.")

He says that as shocked as he was to learn that someone had taken such an interest in Collinwood's history, he was even more surprised, pleasantly so, that Newbury had put into context things he had never thought about. He says that he immediately shared the *Plain Dealer* story with a sibling and two cousins, and then he spent the rest of the day and into the night on the website.

The next morning, he contacted Newbury. Attached to the email were scans of some documents that are more than 100 years old. The images are of yellowed sheets of paper featuring a child's drawings and cursive handwriting. It is schoolwork completed by Helena Hirter, one of the three children Fritz lost in the fire.

These images can now be found on "The Collinwood Fire, 1908."

ANIMATION: MADDIE DAI '14, ELISE BIETTE '16, HOSAIN GHASSEMI '17, JAMES GRAHAM '15, CHAD KAHN '16, KATRINA MOORE '17, JON BROOME '16, ALI SALEM '16, SOFY MAIA '16, SASHA SCHELL '15, JUSTIN HOLMES

SOUND/MUSIC: DANILO HERRERA '18

REGARDING Cloe

Her job at TED is to help people spread great ideas so that we all can understand the world a little bit better. But to really get to know Cloe Shasha '11, we turned to her best friend.

BY BIANCA GIAEVER '12.5
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JON ROEMER

When Cloe Shasha was four, she learned the word *east*. "East!" Cloe screamed. "East like a treat! Like a macaroon!"

As she learned to speak, she connected each word to a distinct taste, smell, or texture. For a long time, she assumed that everyone learned words this way. It was only in her twenties that she realized she had synesthesia, a phenomena that literally means "a blending of the senses."

I love to ask her what words taste like. Her own name, *Cloe,* is a combination of glue and cooked rice, like risotto. *Tyler,* her brother, is warm frothy milk, like you would find on the top of a cappuccino. *Vestibule* is the smell of a piping hot Xerox machine. *Herbert* is an onion that's begun to slime. *Middlebury* is mashed-up red currants, perhaps on their way to becoming a dessert sauce. *Friend* is the comforting, woody smell of cloves.

Cloe is one of my best friends.

After graduating from Middlebury, we lived together in a small, overpriced apartment in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, nicknamed "the fishbowl." We took turns living in the second "bedroom," which was really an area of the living room separated by a glass wall.

Now she's turning 30, and we've been friends for 10 years. Since graduating, we've gone on bike trips, hosted dinner parties, fallen in love like teenagers, bought a vacuum cleaner, asked for promotions, hired a plumber, and weathered a few breakups. I've seen her small triumphs, like discovering the ideal salad dressing recipe, and her major transitions, like identifying as gay and then queer.

During the past decade, I feel like I have had the best seat to an epic play: the story of my friend's life unfolding. She's the same person I have always known, but she's also becoming more herself each day.

TED: A BOWL OF PEANUT BUTTER GRANOLA.

Cloe and I became friends my first semester at Middlebury, and she was one of the first people I ever met who actually grew up in New York City. She had giant, blonde curly hair, which made her easy to spot in the dining hall. She was a fast talker, a straight shooter, someone who ordered exactly what she wanted at restaurants and never looked back.

In her junior year at Middlebury, she founded TEDxMiddlebury, a local chapter of the TED Conference. A full year of planning went into the event, from designing the website to timing out the cookie breaks. The first event featured 16 speakers, most of them Middlebury alums. During the after-party, Cloe received a phone call. It was Rory Riggs '75, the founder of an analytics company and a longtime TED Conference attendee. "He was calling from a mountain," Cloe told me. "I think it was Kilimanjaro."

Riggs was actually hiking in Jordan and had been tuning into a livestream of the event. On the phone call he offered to cover all of Cloe's expenses to attend the 2011 TEDActive in Palm Springs. It was an act of extreme generosity that changed her life.

TEDActive was a sister event to the TED Conference, where attendees watch a livestream of the talks from the comfort of their beanbag chairs. Many of the attendees, like Cloe, had planned their own TEDx event or accomplished something exceptional at a young age. She arrived not knowing anyone and picked grapefruits from the trees for breakfast. As Cloe came down the hotel's stairs holding her grapefruits, a TED host named Rives walked up to her and said, "You must be Cloe." Rives had memorized the names of nearly all 500 conference attendees.

Between sessions, the hallways filled with chatter. At night, attendees went to mixology parties and signed up for nighttime Jeep drives to the middle of the desert. "It was so exciting, I barely had time to pee," said Cloe. In the pool, she struck up a conversation with a woman who worked at TED. "I'm starting an event at TED that's for youth. If you want to interview for the team, call me when you're back in New York," the woman said. Then she hopped out of the pool. "Did I just get a job?" Cloe wondered.

Cloe has worked at TED for six-and-a-half years now, and she is currently the director of speaker development on the curation team. "The essence of my job is to make TED talks as good as they can be," she said, "both through finding good speakers and pitching them up the chain, and working individually with speakers to make their talks stronger."

Cloe has helped produce talks with many prominent figures, including Monica Lewinsky, sex therapist Esther Perel, author Roxane Gay, Airbnb cofounder Joe Gebbia, ACLU executive director Anthony Romero, and president of the World Bank Jim Yong Kim. Now she's also helping produce *Sincerely, X,* a podcast for speakers whose stories necessitate anonymity. The first season featured stories from a victim of domestic violence and a man in jail for white-collar crime.

Now she's also helping produce *Sincerely, X*, a podcast for speakers whose stories necessitate anonymity. The first season featured stories from a victim of domestic violence and a man in jail for white-collar crime.

Many speakers who meet with Cloe have been waiting their entire lives to share their ideas. In their TED talks, they typically have between 8 and 15 minutes to share the culmination of a lifetime of research or to talk about a personal experience. It's not uncommon for speakers to come to Cloe with first drafts 30 to 45 minutes long or to show up to a tech rehearsal jittering with nerves.

Cloe's strengths are perfectly suited to the shaky, stressed-out speaker. She's allergic to indirectness and gives her notes and criticisms with an unusual combination of compassion and candor. She has a nerdy enthusiasm for new ideas, which scientists find very flattering. And in her work, she values clarity and practicality above all else.

In general, she's unconcerned with appearing cool, which, in a way, makes her very cool.

CHILDHOOD, THE SMELL OF A WOOL HAT.

At a party in 1980, Cloe's father, Dennis Shasha, challenged the room to a math puzzle. Dennis was a PhD student at Harvard, and the partygoers were academics. The room was stumped.

A couple of weeks later, he met a woman named Karen Shashoua. He presented the puzzle to her, and before he could finish explaining how it worked, she interrupted with the correct answer. They were 24 and 25, both Iraqi Jewish. They had both attended Yale but never knew each other. Their last names were two letters apart, *Shasha* and *Shashoua*. Their birthdays were both August 15. They fell in love.

Cloe has no *h* in her first name because Dennis was bothered by the inefficiency of an extra *h* to spell *Chloe*. He became a computer science professor, and the family moved to NYU faculty housing on Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village.

Their apartment now serves as a de facto international youth hostel, a safe haven of delicious smells and engaging conversation. On any given night, dinner may be served with a group of visiting German playwrights from down the hall or a collection of Dennis's graduate students. If you come over for dinner, you may be greeted at the elevator by Dennis practicing his juggling and then be invited to spend the night on their gigantic blue couch.

"Dennis is the most interesting man in the world," says Will Bellaimey '10.5, a friend of Cloe's and a frequent apartment guest. In the morning, Dennis wakes up and eats dinner. Usually meatballs. From there he keeps it light, snacking on nuts, chocolate almonds, and lactose-free milk for the rest of the day. He wears the same outfit, no matter the season: shorts, a T-shirt, a scarf, and yellow socks (yellow in memory of the only car he ever owned, a yellow Honda named Penelope). At night, he sleeps around four hours, supplemented by many micro-naps throughout the day. He works best in bed, where he's comfortable and can nap when he needs to.

"I never know what he's working on, and then suddenly he's published a book," Cloe said. For years, he wrote the puzzle column in the magazine *Scientific American* as well as a series of puzzle books called *The Adventures of Dr. Ecco*. (As a teenager, Cloe illustrated his puzzle columns.) For decades he's maintained a correspondence with a puzzle fan in Canada, whom he still has never met. Cloe says that they are "thought partners" with similar puzzle minds."

Cloe's mom, Karen, is an artist, photographer, and musician. "My dad sees the world in black and white, while my mom inhabits the gray area in between," Cloe told me. She has early memories of her mom making wood-frame houses with walls made of photographs, as well as hand-carved chairs that looked like people. "The legs looked like human thighs, and the tops looked like curly hair. Then she would burn them and photograph them burning." For the past few decades, Karen has sported the same haircut my boyfriend has now, an asymmetrical gathering of curls, long on the top and short on the sides. In the '90s, she added a blue streak running through the front.

Every seven years, Cloe's family moved to France for her dad's sabbatical. She arrived for the first time as a three-year-old, speaking no French, in a preschool where toddlers used cloth napkins and cutlery to eat meals. She was reprimanded by teachers for not speaking French and was teased by the other preschoolers. She was unable to defend herself, afraid, and desperate to communicate.

When she was back in the United States, the feeling of being an outsider lingered. When she was five, she remembers watching a group of two-

year-olds play in a sprinkler. “I felt like a creep watching them,” she said. “But I was so fascinated to see how they were less conscious of themselves than I was, they were freer. I felt already at five more self-conscious.”

She began badgering her parents for more siblings. They eventually had one more child, her brother, Tyler, who is six years younger. “I wanted 17 siblings,” she said. “But I feel lucky that I was born into a family with many cousins.” Her father has 42 first cousins, and she has over 200 second cousins.

When she found out how babies were made, at age four, she wanted to know everything about fertility. She spent hours in the library reading about reproductive systems and genetic disorders, and became fascinated by twins. She observed the identical twins at her school closely. (“I remember Will always had drier skin than Bart,” she recalled.) This interest never faded, and today she’s pursuing volunteer doula training. Her eyes lit up as she described her first encounter with a placenta: “I loved seeing how beautifully intact it was,” she said. “It looked like a cabbage.”

Cloe invites TED speakers based on what she finds interesting, and thus her curiosities find their way into the TED zeitgeist. She follows new research closely, hoping to awaken the public to scientific advances that may otherwise go unnoticed. I asked her if she worried TED might be a passing fad, but she shrugged. “I don’t think that ideas will get old,” she said. “I think the format if we don’t innovate could become old; I don’t know if people want to watch videos. But the topics we’ll be confronting in the next few years, like robotics, artificial intelligence, and the ethics around all of that . . . those ideas aren’t going to get old.”

In late October, I flew to New Orleans to accompany Cloe on a day of rehearsals for the annual TEDWomen conference. The event was held in the historic Orpheum Theater in downtown New Orleans. The iconic TED letters, which exist in a variety of sizes to fit the proportions of different stages, had been shipped from New York City. I crept up to measure the height of these letters, and they reached up to my belly button. Below the stage, a tech hand-spritzed the lights with hairspray every 15 minutes to make sure the cameras didn’t catch a reflective glare. A camera guy, who had flown in from Nashville, used a 34-foot metal rig for the camera’s signature sweep across the TED stage.

The theme of the event was bridges, and a custom mural and sculpture of a bridge served as the backdrop. At 8 a.m., a core team of TED staffers huddled around a table to run through the event logistics. “How do we see a 40-girl chorus onstage without risers?” asked one woman. Another staff member ran in late to the meeting, feeling frazzled and upset. “It’s normal for people to overreact in the heat of the conference,” Cloe whispered to me.

There are four days of 52 speaker rehearsals to move through, and the TED team works from 8 a.m. to midnight. One hundred fifteen TED employees had flown in for the event, and 35 local staff had been hired. Around a thousand guests from around the world had purchased tickets, which sell for $2,495 each. The speakers finished each rehearsal with a sigh of relief and immediately entered a debrief session with two or three TED staffers. "People develop talks at the last minute," Cloe said. "It's a nightmare, but it also makes them good."

The speakers had been found every possible way: a viral blog post, a podcast, and a snippet of conversation in everyday life. In her day-to-day job, Cloe works with interns to draw speakers from a massive database of nominations (many people nominate themselves). She also finds speakers by word of mouth, through her impressive virtual Rolodex of connections (she's recently been curating her Facebook friends in anticipation of hitting the 5,000-friend limit).

In many of these talks, the classic TED clichés were on full display: the theatrical reveals, the search for a dramatic moment where everything has changed, and a lengthy pause after every sentence. These tropes have been mocked in parody videos, and I asked Cloe if these things bothered her. She responded incredulously: "Everything that's good gets mocked, so who cares?"

MEMORY, A THIN SLICE OF RADISH. *QUEER*, A BIT LIKE IRON, IF YOU COULD TASTE THE POSTS OF AN IRON FENCE.

Cloe majored in psychology at Middlebury, and her thesis research was inspired by a question that had long been bothering her: *Why do we forget so much of what we learn in school?* "I have a profound sadness around the idea that we lose so many of our experiences to the abyss of the brain," she said. "In order to make sense of things, I want to be able to refer back and construct a narrative."

Her childhood bedroom has a stack of 85 journals, chronicling most days of her life from age 6 to 18. She even printed out her AOL Instant Messenger conversations as a middle schooler (a rare relic I imagine future anthropologists will covet). Her methods border on the scientific: photos, journals, and folders of documents are all meticulously labeled and organized by date.If this thorough documentation is a memory device, it's working. In my interviews with her, she vividly recounts incidents from when she was three years old, as well as the first moment she encountered each of her best friends.

Two years ago, her journaling style of 13 years pivoted when she read the work of author Maggie Nelson. Nelson recently won a MacArthur "genius" grant for her writing about her life as a queer woman. "She inspired me to try blending personal narrative with research and commentary," said Cloe. "There is no better way to reflect on my life than think about things this way. It gives a whole picture." Nelson's book *The Argonauts* was the first account of queer sexuality that felt relatable to Cloe. She now identifies as a queer woman, because she's attracted to women as well as people who were assigned female at birth and identify on the masculine side of the gender spectrum.

As a child, she was boy crazy, and she says that she fell deeply and truly in love with a boy named Jake at the age of 10 (the relationship became long distance to France, and she didn't fall in love again for another seven years). But as she got older, her queerness wasn't a huge surprise. "When I was little, I didn't behave in the way that normal girly girls behaved," she said. "I didn't get excited about things in the same way. Like, I never shrieked. When I watched movies, I never felt like I was any of those people." She was obsessed with drawing different phenotypes of the human body, trying to understand what was beautiful. "I felt like I had spent my whole life fighting to be normal," she said. "When I first discovered I was queer, I definitely wasn't like 'Yay, now I'm different!' I felt like an outsider weirdo always, and I didn't fit in easily. Now I'm re-embracing being different.'"

One of the biggest transitions has been reimagining the heteronormative family that she had always pictured as a kid. She had never imagined her family unit would be anything the world saw as "other," but now she realized that her kids' lives would not be a normative one.

When she started dating someone who used the pronouns *they/them*, she was shocked by her parents' difficulty transitioning to a new gender pronoun. They asked if they could use something that was grammatically easier, and Cloe published the letter she wrote in response in the *Huffington Post*. The article was titled "How to Tell Your Parents That Gender Pronouns Matter." She realized that if her politically liberal, forward-thinking, New York City parents were having trouble with these pronouns, other people could definitely use help, too.

She began thinking of ways that she could incorporate her queer identity into her work at TED and has brought new LGBTQ speakers to the TED community. This year, the TED curators will host their first speaker who uses a gender neutral pronoun on the main stage. In anticipation, Cloe offered to educate the staff about how to use gender neutral pronouns and held a workshop about hidden identities.

"People talked about all sorts of things, like being Muslim in America, or growing up poor," she said. "It feels so good to be publicly out, to feel at home and safe at work."

Cloe and I talked for three hours in her office at TED, even though she was running a slight fever (she's definitely the type of person to still go to work when she's sick). I left the office after my "interview" feeling warm and full. New York felt more charming than usual. On my right, a man sprinted by holding nothing but a bag of four limes. On my left, I watched another man catch his pit bull's poop directly into a large trash bag. I loved the world of our conversations, where no thought was too strange to say out loud. Our talks took on a life of their own, meandering between theories about how taste buds work, confessions of forlorn heartbreak, and stories about falling asleep with our shoes on.

I felt that I had reached that milestone in a friendship where you can see your friends as the children they once were as well as the adults they are now. I saw Cloe studying twins and fertility in the library, planning for the unconventional family she didn't yet know she would have. I saw her in France, desperate for communication and connection, and using tastes as a tool to retain French and English. I saw her whole life as a long science experiment, a series of hypotheses that were constantly being tested and reworked. As modeled by her father, Dennis, there is no such thing as unconventionality, just a series of life hacks that do and don't work for you.

When I think about our friendship, I'm transported back to the nine long months I waited to attend Middlebury as a Feb. For much of that time, I repeated a wish to myself: *I hope I make friends there. I hope I make friends there.* Days before arrival, that wish turned into a full-blown, anxiety-fueled prayer: *Please, please . . . let me have friends there! Please let me find someone!* My 18-year-old self could never have imagined the depths of love she would fall into and the beautiful friends she would make. Including, at a radio meeting in the Old Stone Mill, a girl named Cloe.

Class Acts

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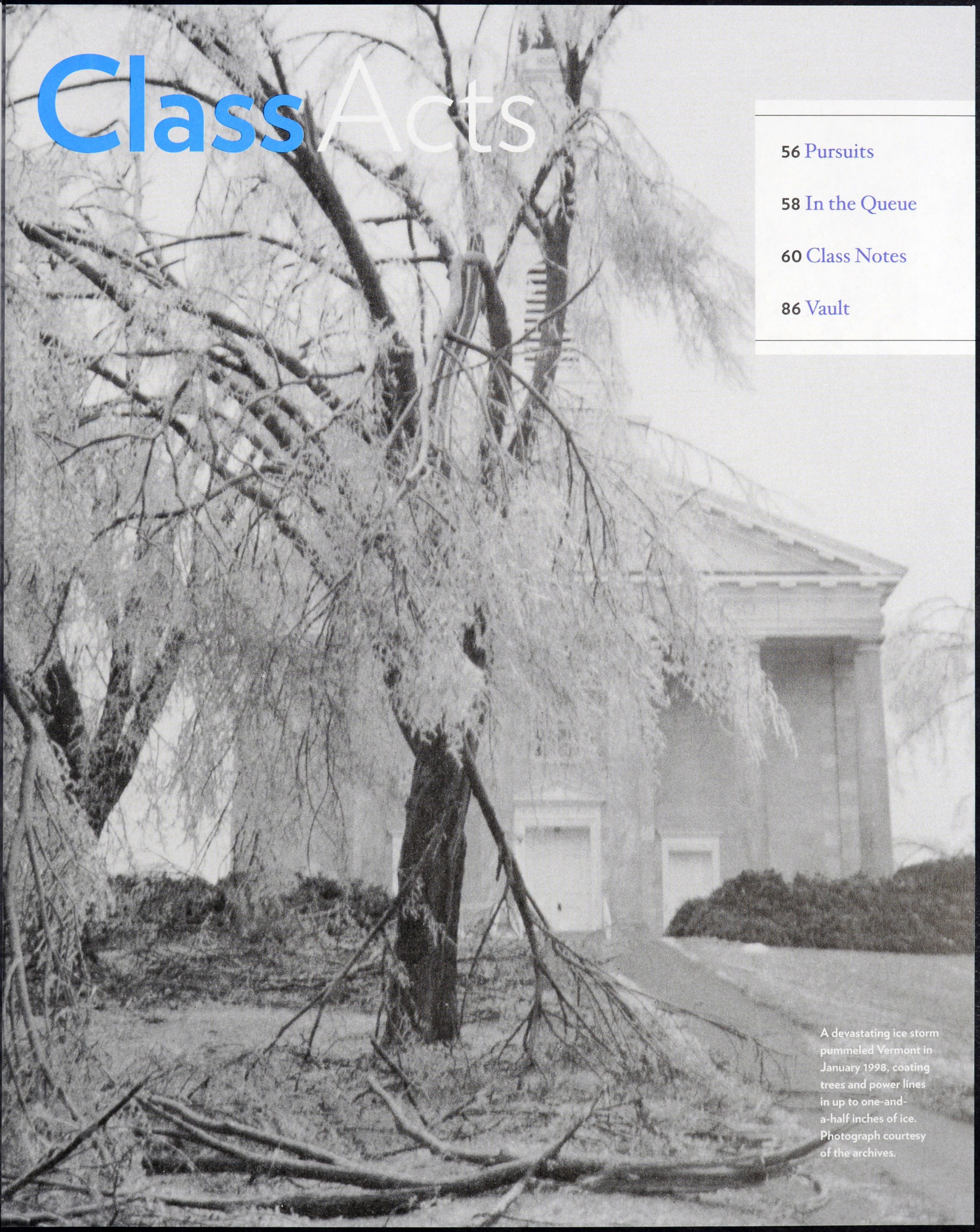


A devastating ice storm pummeled Vermont in January 1998, coating trees and power lines in up to one-and-a-half inches of ice. Photograph courtesy of the archives.

By Lena Singer

Maker of Magic

Kpoene' Kofi-Nicklin '02 is in a loft on Chicago's West Side, steaming the wrinkles out of a long tulle veil. A photographer bustles by, preparing to take pictures of a model wearing bespoke wedding gowns designed and sewn by Kofi-Nicklin. The pictures will eventually be posted to social media. The dresses hang together on a rack like a shimmering cloud. Kofi-Nicklin's wife, Anne Nicklin, appears and asks if she needs anything before the shoot begins. The designer absentmindedly declines. Unexpectedly, she brings up Iceland.

Last July, Kofi-Nicklin traveled from Chicago, where she owns and operates the high-end custom bridal boutique Mignonette Bridal, to southern Iceland on a "black girl magic trip." Frustrated with the dearth of women of color in bridal fashion and media, Kofi-Nicklin convened with like-minded stylists and photographers—themselves all women of color—to take cinematic, art-directed images of a black model wearing Mignonette gowns. As they photographed the model in front of lush Scandinavian hillsides, icy rivers, and crashing waterfalls, passing tourists were intrigued and excited by the scene. "Nobody was looking at the beautiful natural wonder we'd all come to see," says Kofi-Nicklin. "Everyone was looking at [her]."

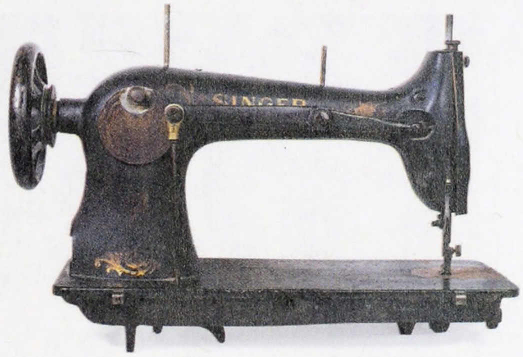
In a wedding industry now dominated by social media—according to 2016 surveys by wedding resource the Knot, 62 percent of brides use their mobile phones to browse for dresses, and 70 percent find wedding inspiration on social media—Kofi-Nicklin has positioned herself not only as a designer and shopkeeper, but also as a self-starting fashion editor, digital marketer, and online entrepreneur. In 2017 alone, she organized additional trips to Amsterdam, Paris, and Toronto for photoshoots of her gowns, and lent dresses to photographers around the world for their own editorial photography. The meticulously styled, aspirational images from these excursions filter through Instagram and Pinterest, where tags lead brides right back to Mignonette's own Instagram page and Etsy shop.

Fashion and the Internet converged organically for Kofi-Nicklin, who moved to New York in 2002 after graduating from Middlebury, where she studied English literature and women's studies. As a student, she picked up sewing in the Theatre Department's costume shop, repairing and designing costumes for dance productions and plays. She had learned fashion illustration and design theory in a costuming course at Midd, and in New York decided to enroll in design classes at Fashion Institute of Technology. She lived in Brooklyn and fell into a collective of designers who were building the momentum for a soon-to-be-global handmade movement and the kind of DIY online retail that launched Etsy in 2005.

Kofi-Nicklin and Nicklin, an architect, met in New York and lived briefly in San Francisco. They were married in 2009 in Montréal, and photos of their romantic ceremony can still be found on wedding blogs. Kofi-Nicklin designed and made her own gauzy dress: "My gown lives here in the store, and every time we finish a custom gown I put a little bit of my dress in the hem. That's their 'something old,'" she says.

The couple settled in Chicago in 2011. Nicklin, an expert in sustainable building practices, designed the Mignonette boutique, an elegant atelier that's "like a little jewel box," says Kofi-Nicklin. In early 2018, Kofi-Nicklin will move Mignonette's showroom to downtown Chicago and the existing space will become a spin-off business, Ette, dedicated to wedding gown alterations, including the restoration and restyling of vintage dresses. She also recently launched a line of ready-to-wear bridal skirts, based on a pattern of hers called the Gris. "When I first started the label, I had no idea how I was going to reach people," says Kofi-Nicklin. "Now all I have to do is pick up my phone."

PARALLELS



A THREAD TO THE PAST

As she planned to open Mignonette, Kofi-Nicklin frequented estate sales around Chicago, collecting antiques for the shop. An advertisement for a sale in Palatine boasted that it was a "dream" for sewing enthusiasts. Skeptical, Kofi-Nicklin decided to check it out on the last day. She met the daughter of Italian immigrants who had been local tailors. The daughter was selling her parents' vintage European fabrics, studio furniture, and 1900s-era sewing machines, including the Singer model pictured here. "I bought everything," says Kofi-Nicklin. "I even have their wedding photo." Over time, the Italian tailors have become like patron saints to the designer and seamstress. "They set up the sewing business, and they started from pretty much nothing," she says. With their machine in the store, she feels as though she has "someone watching over me."

NEW FAMILY HEIRLOOM

Soon after Kofi-Nicklin graduated from Middlebury, her mother gave her her first pair of professional-quality sewing shears as a token of encouragement. "Even though we use them every day, they take pride of place in the studio," she says. "They hang on the wall. Everything I cut with [them] turns out to be the most perfect thing."

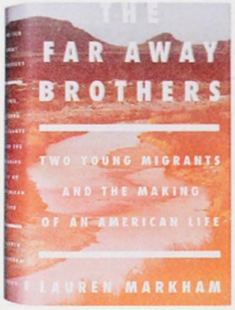
CERTAIN STORIES

Kofi-Nicklin's mother also passed along her love for Edith Wharton. "I read *The Buccaneers* when I was probably in junior high," she says. She often quotes Wharton in the captions of bridal photos that appear on Mignonette's Instagram account. A favorite is, "There are two ways of spreading light. To be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it," from Wharton's poem "Vesalius in Zante. (1564)."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALYSSA SCHUKAR

BOOK REVIEW

Alone at the Rio Grande



In Lauren Markham's gripping account, young brothers brave the migrant trail from El Salvador to the U.S.

By Susan H. Greenberg

When Lauren Markham '05 first meets the Flores brothers, they have just missed an important court date to determine their future in the U.S. Ernesto and Raúl are 17-year-old twins from El Salvador, two of the hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors who have made the harrowing journey from Central America through Mexico to the U.S. The brothers are fleeing poverty and rampant gang violence in the wake of El Salvador's brutal civil war; Ernesto has received death threats. Their parents, poorly educated subsistence farmers, have borrowed the unimaginable sum of $14,000 to pay "coyotes" to guide the boys north to California, where their older brother Wilber lives. Miraculously, they survive long bus rides, packed trucks, filthy safe houses, a raid, and a terrifying few days stranded in the desert to reach their brother—only to have Wilber get lost driving them to the San Francisco courthouse. Now they've missed their chance to plead their case before a judge.

As a counselor at Oakland International High School, which the twins attend along with migrant children from more than 30 countries, Markham is called in to help. Against all odds, she finds the boys a lawyer they can afford and guides them through the bureaucratic morass of the immigration system. In the process, she unravels a poignant, timely, and illuminating story of desperation and hope.

Fortunately, Markham is an experienced journalist who has spent years covering refugees. And in *The Far Away Brothers*, she masterfully combines her skills as a sharp-eyed reporter with her immigration expertise. With the twins' permission, she spent two years tracing their journey from their home in La Colonia to Oakland. Over hundreds of hours, she interviewed the boys, their family members,

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA GODEASSI

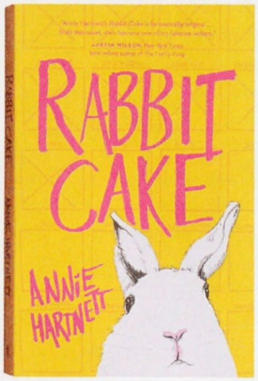
and anyone else she could find who interacted with them. She toggles between the "far away brothers" in California and the suffering family back home, weaving in well-researched set pieces about gang violence in El Salvador and detention centers in Texas that heighten the urgency of the central narrative.

Like all good reporters, Markham refrains from editorializing and offers no solutions to America's immigration crisis until the afterword. She simply relays the facts, neither sensationalizing nor whitewashing the Flores brothers' odyssey. Though they eventually gain legal status in the U.S., there is no happy ending: the twins are hardworking and sympathetic, but they also drink, skip school, and buy themselves iPhones with the money they are meant to send home. In laying bare their story, Markham reveals the complex humanity of the dispossessed, which no government policy can touch.

EXCERPT

The current yanked the small raft into the center of the river, sucking the Flores twins toward the Gulf of Mexico as the coyote fought it to the opposite shore. They couldn't see much in the blackness apart from the stars and the outlines of trees against the darkness. It wasn't so bad out here, thought Raúl, compared to what he had imagined during the days in the safe house, though the raft did wobble as it cut across the current, and he could feel the cool water lapping uncomfortably close. Before they left, the coyotes had told them that migrants like them had died making this crossing; Raúl couldn't help picturing corpses submerged in the water beneath him. Once the raft bumped the Texas shore, the coyote commanded them, in a voice between a whisper and a hiss, to get off.

Ernesto, as usual, stepped off first, into water up to his knees. Once he got his footing, he reached for Raúl's hand and pulled him up the bank. One by one the migrants scrambled up into the United States.



Life after Loss

By Sara Thurber Marshall

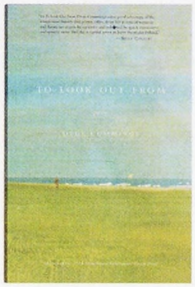
When Elvis's mother sleepwalks to her death by drowning, the family members she leaves behind struggle to cope with the loss. The grief they are feeling affects each one differently: Lizzie punches her best friend in the jaw and begins sleepeating; Dad wears his wife's lipstick and her silk bathrobe; and Elvis simply tries to understand. Why did her mother drown when she was an expert swimmer, even in her sleep? How could her mother die that way when Miss Ida, the psychic, had said she'd commit suicide? And why wasn't Elvis even crying?

In this heartwarming coming-of-age novel, Annie Hartnett, MA English '11 introduces us to the ever-resourceful 10-year-old Elvis Babbitt, who is trying to navigate the off-kilter turns her life keeps taking now that her mother is gone. Like a true scientist, Elvis deals with her myriad questions about death, grief, and what happened that fateful night by coming up with hypotheses and doing research to find answers. Maybe her mother had a brain tumor and really did kill herself since she was going to die anyway. Trying to puzzle out the mysteries around her mother's death is Elvis's way of coping.

Yet even as she works to find her own way, Elvis must also deal with her father's and sister's reactions to their own grief and the manifestations those take, including the dangerous sleepwalking episodes her sister has.

At any age, death and its fallout are heartbreaking, and you can't help being engaged by the smart and plucky heroine Hartnett has created, whose clear, honest voice teaches us about family, grief, and how to find the way forward.

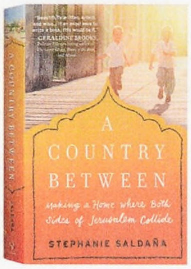
EDITORS' PICKS



DEDE CUMMINGS

To Look Out From

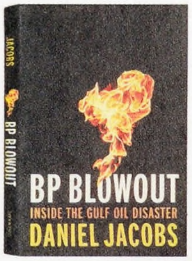
In this collection of beautifully crafted poems, Dede Cummings '79 draws the reader into the memories of her life, evoking the deep, universal feelings that come with experiencing the highs and lows of living.



STEPHANIE SALDAÑA

A Country Between

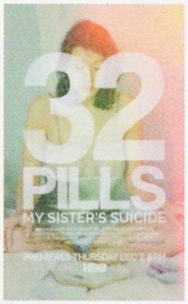
Living in the turbulence of a divided Jerusalem, Stephanie Saldaña '99 tells a beautiful tale about piecing together a life for her family amidst the brokenness of a country so often at war.



DANIEL JACOBS

BP Blowout

Daniel Jacobs '79 has written the first comprehensive account of the 2010 oil disaster that occurred in the Gulf of Mexico, revealing important details about the legal, economic, and environmental consequences.



BETH LEVISON

32 Pills: My Sister's Suicide

Beth Levison '91 is the producer of this powerful documentary about the suicide of Ruth Litoff, whose sister, Hope, struggles to piece together who Ruth was and why she might want to kill herself.

ClassActs

Directors of the Middlebury Alumni Association (MAA)

Wendy Russell Tracy '95, President • Thomas D. Steinle '84, Vice President • Robert V. Sideli '77, Past President • Hannah C. Burnett '10 • David R. Ellis '09 • Kristen Forsberg '04, MPA '07 • William L. Graham '76, MA English '84 • Janine Hetherington '95 • Shana Mitchell Hopkins '94 • Samuel S. Libby '09 • R. Drew Miller '03 • Anne Harris Onion '69 • Katie Rosin-Green '97 • Nadia R.R. Schreiber '12

Ex Officio: Meg Storey Groves '85, Associate Vice President for Alumni and Parent Programs • Beth Connor, Director of Alumni and Parent Programs

If anyone in the Classes of 1935, 1936, 1937, or 1938 would like to share news with the Middlebury community, please send it to Sara Marshall, Alumni Editor, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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When I think back to my time at the College, I often remember how different it was from growing up in Manhattan. In the city in the winter, we had a little bit of skiing on a hill in Central Park but it was nothing like the wonderful ski areas in Vermont. At Middlebury, winter was a fun time for all to enjoy. The hill up to the chapel was always there but it was not much of a challenge to ski. You could always go to the mountains nearby and get all the challenge you could handle. Middlebury opened the door to enjoy the seasons.

—Class Correspondent: A. Roger Clarke (arogerclarke@aol.com), 7 Rundel Park, Rochester, NY 14607.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to Sara Marshall, 152 College St., Middlebury Magazine, Middlebury, VT 05753 or to smarshal@middlebury.edu.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to one of us.

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Wolfington Hubbard-Ovens, 22 Inverness Dr., Apt. I-116, New Hartford, NY 13413; Margaret Shaub, 7 Aspen Dr., Apt. 236, South Burlington, VT 05403.

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If you have any news you'd like to share, please send it to me.

—Class Correspondent: Nancy Hall Whitehouse (whitehousenancy@ymail.com), 75 State St., Unit 61, Portland, ME 04101.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Stuart Walker** reports: **Dumont Rush** says, "Your trip to Russia sounds great. We haven't done anything special; we haven't traveled and prefer not to." • I hope to see you at the 75th—maybe my last trip to Middlebury! • Correspondent **Jean Jordan Sheild** reports: I had a delightful chat with **Gertrude "Scotty" Lacey Thornton** recently. She is still teaching oriental brush painting—classes start in mid-January and run until the end of April. They are held on Saturday mornings every week. She was anxious to tell me about her 95th birthday celebration. Her birthday was June 22 with the family celebration on Saturday the 24th. Some came from San Francisco and Seattle and stayed most of the week. They had breakfasts together and of course enjoyed the nearby beaches, especially the children. There were about 30 in all, so she really enjoyed the family time together. When I asked her about whether Hurricane Irma affected her at all since she lives in Atlantic Beach, Fla., she replied that her daughter, Elaine, called her early in the forecast and asked her to please come to Delaware—she got on the earliest flight possible! She stayed with her for a week, and when she returned she found the deck was damaged and the power out. Two days later the power came back on. She felt that Irma had been terrible for the whole state. She had followed reports on Jacksonville Beach, which is very close, and was worried because there was so much flooding there. I asked her how far away that was and she said, "Just 20 minutes." I exclaimed, "Scotty, my granddaughter lives in Jacksonville Beach!" I had to tell her that my granddaughter's husband is Brad Nortman, the punter for the Jacksonville Jaguars. Her reply surprised me: "I just finished watching their game and they won, 44–7! They did everything right! No interceptions! It was exciting! I'll be sure to watch for Brad every game." Incidentally, I told her Lexi, my granddaughter, had spent Sunday night of the hurricane in her closet because Brad was in Houston for the football game that weekend. • Now I have to shift gears and deeply regret I must report the death of our classmate, **Betty Brigham Barrett**, on September 14. Betty grew up in Burlington, Vt., so she knew Middlebury well from her childhood. She married soon after graduation and they had 16 children—nine sons and seven daughters. She was so proud of all of them and told me once that one of her sons, Rick, would come and talk over matters about her properties. Another son, Matthew, works for the government and called almost every day. Another time she was looking forward to a weekend visit from her daughter, Barbara '68, who lives in Vermont. She was very happy in her assisted living facility in New London, Conn., especially because some of her family lived nearby and visited nearly every day. She had lots of happy memories of Middlebury, especially Mountain Club hikes and coming back afterwards for the chapel services. She was always so full of life and so loved by her family. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. • An update on **Mary Hickcox Lecko** came from her daughter, Margaret Lecko Gibson '77. Mary is still living at home in Connecticut with her son, Paul. They are both hard of hearing so may not answer phone calls. She has been declining (dementia) and needs more assistance now but is still her sunny self. It was good to hear this news.

—Class Correspondents: Jean Jordan Sheild (sheildfamily@gmail.com), 4408 Winnequah Road, Monona, WI 53716; Stuart Walker (stuarthodgewalker@gmail.com), 1888 Luce Creek Dr., Annapolis, MD 21401.

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If you have any news to share with classmates, please send it to us!

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Wheaton Evans (rrwe@verizon.net), 80 Salisbury St., Unit 603, Worcester, MA 01609; Elizabeth Ring Hennefrund (eliz.bet@earthlink.net), 397 Old Sherman Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.

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Steve Worcester '71 sent this news about **Audrey Nunnemacher Pertl**, who died on June 14: "Audrey was in hospice care in her bedroom at home for over a year with our GP managing hospice. I slept by her on a cot. She had a large blood clot in December 2014, writing 127 Christmas cards and not walking for weeks. In August 2015 she fell and broke a hip trying to stand to a walker. Normal life expectancy for someone her age is 10 months and we made it 22 months. She was lucid and had her memories intact for all but her last few days. We were fortunate to have certified nursing assistants who started in May 2014 and at the end were working eight hours, seven days a week. They became part of the family. She requested no obit, services, or funeral. Some of her ashes were scattered in June in Albion Basin above Alta Ski Resort. She first skied there in 1945 with her first husband. Her three sons and I will miss her forever. Few who ever met her did not love her. We met August 7, 1976. Despite a generation's difference in age, we had a wonderful 41 years." • **Elaine King Dandh** writes, "Well, the book is finally published. I called it *Elderville* because it describes a fine example of an old age establishment. It is selling nicely, and I enjoyed writing it. Now, living in a bilingual world just 10 miles south of the Mexican border, I ought to be able to find material for my next." • **Jessie Woodwell Bush** sent news about experiencing Hurricane Irma: "Although threatened by the news we were hearing, we were told by the management of Aston Gardens that all necessary preparations had been made and precautions taken to assure us that we were in an ideal shelter to weather the storm. Kudos to all involved! I actually slept through the storm."

—Class Correspondent: Mary Elizabeth Wisotzkey McClellan (maryliz124@comcast.net), 124 RiverMead Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.

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Correspondent **Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom** reports: West Caldwell, N.J., was one of my beloved hometowns. Therefore, I enjoyed talking about it with **Betty Steiner Hoenig**, who has moved there fairly recently to a retirement community. Her residence, Crane's Mill, is named for a family in our former church. She enjoys annual family reunions with her son and daughter, five grandchildren, and eight great-grands, in Ocean Park, Maine. That is relatively near where I live at Huntington Common in Kennebunk, so perhaps we shall meet again! For any of our classmates who come this way, Huntington Common is just off Ross Road, a block in from Route 1. There is always complimentary coffee and hot water for tea ready in the Bistro near handy restrooms for a quick travel break to enable a visit. • **Peg Romer Jones** says she was safe and well-cared-for during the Florida hurricane. She writes, "We had a whole week of heavy news coverage before the storm and were well-geared mentally. The Renaissance, my home, was prepped and we were beautifully cared for. The staff was wonderful—most stayed overnight and many brought families in here. There were people sleeping in all sorts of set-ups and lots of children on an adventure. The hardest part was 72 hours with no AC, because the facility does not have full-generator equipment, and it was very, very hot—plus no lights, no elevator, no TV or Internet so in spite of the week of buildup, we knew very little about what the storm was actually doing and now, of course, know only of the damage and destruction and terrible loss so many suffered. The kitchen here had a mobile truck generator so it functioned nicely and we were well-fed in our apartments, but it meant the staff had to lug it upstairs for the second and third floors. Never a complaint. All in all, for me, the storm was a bit of adventure and variety." • Since **Gloria Antolini Keyser** was instrumental in getting the library at Piper Shores up and running at the beginning, she continues to do volunteer work there. She also volunteered that she is in good health. • In writing these few notes, I have realized that with today's technology we can search for the websites of the residences of our classmates to actually see where they are living. Besides Crane's Mill, Piper Shores, and Huntington Common, I remember that **Barbara "Flinkie" Flink Ewels** lives at RiverMead in Peterborough, N.H. Her facility has a pool, where she enjoys swimming laps. • In my own news, following both of our bereavements and exchanging of condolence cards, my favorite Middlebury date, Peter Richter, who used to hitchhike from RPI with a buddy who dated the late **Anne "Rod" Adams Beetle**, now drives almost weekly from Freeport, Maine, to Kennebunk for lunch dates. To see foliage in October, we drove via the Kancamagus Highway to my childhood hometown of Bristol, N.H., to see Cummings Beach at Newfound Lake and Profile Falls. Profile Falls is divided by the Bristol/Hill townline and my father used to own the Bristol half. I forgot you have to be in good condition to hike in to see the falls so we only heard the 40-foot water splashing. I plan to contact the Departments of Tourism and of Recreation as well as the Corps of Engineers that oversees the area in which it is located to see if they can facilitate my ideas to make it accessible to all. • Correspondent **Joan Campbell Shaw** reports: **Jean "Lucky" Luckhardt Stratton** sent news of her vacation with Bud last August at their former cottage on Cousins Island, Maine, now owned by her daughter, Nan Bragg. She said the weather cooperated and so did lots of relatives who came for lunch! She always gets to see **Betsy Barclay Wales** but it's now a bit harder since Barc has moved to South Portland. Lucky also wrote that her heart is always in New England. • **Joan "Smitty" Smith Rovegno** moved to Indiana to be near her daughter Ann. Her daughter Jane is in Virginia and son Richard is still in Houston. Smitty's sister died in May. (Sincerest sympathy from your classmates when they read this, Smitty.) She has seven granddaughters but when the great-grandchildren came they were all boys. Smitty plays bridge and goes to exercise class twice a week. Reading, and crossword and jigsaw puzzles are just enough to keep her occupied. • **Jane Ringlund Pippin** was just heading out the door for dinner when I called her but had time to tell me that she loves the Carriage Club, where she lives. She doesn't have to do anything anymore—no cooking! She uses a walker now. • **Jean Schwab Schork** says she is slowing down. She is still the longtime director of the Chansonettes, a choral group of over 20 women ranging in age from 30s to 60s and specializing in three-part singing. They have programs in the spring and fall. Jean's Florida grandson Danny is a banker and Tennessee grandson Randy is a chef and has opened a restaurant in Colorado. Her daughter, Lyn, lives in West Hartford, Conn., where she is head of the language department at a private school. Jean substitutes at her church as receptionist and switchboard operator and enjoys her friends there. She has good advice for those of us who need more exercise—get out of your chair and walk around while those many commercials appear on TV! (More exercise—she also waves her arms around a lot while directing the chorus.) Jean drives, shops, cooks, and rejects the idea of moving away from her home of many years. Slowing down? We don't think so! • Another classmate who claims to be slowing down is **Avery Post**, who resides at Kendall at Hanover. He looked very well, however, as we spent a few minutes reminiscing. He was sorry not to have been at our 70th reunion. • I have good news and bad news. The good first—in the fall I attended the Middlebury football game against Colby with my daughter, Betsy, and some of her Colby friends. When Midd won 37–6, I apologized to those alums. They replied, "Don't worry about it, we always lost when we were in school!" The bad news about **Sheila Schmidt Rowland**'s death was reported in the fall issue of this magazine and, for those interested, a full obituary was published in the *Burlington Free Press* on August 26. A celebration of Sheila's life was held at the Vermont Commons School in Burlington, Vt., the day after Thanksgiving.

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Dorothy Domina Willard was surprised one day to find a photographer at her door. He had come to take pictures of her because they were going to feature her as a Super Senior. It's an honor she well deserves considering all she does for her community. She's still picking up trash on the roads but finds it discouraging as the next day, it's as bad as usual. Her son recently retired and in the fall, they planned to take a trip to Australia and New Zealand. There was a kangaroo island there that Dorothy particularly wanted to see. All of her children have traveled a great deal. In August the entire family all went together to see the total eclipse. She said it was truly exciting and the darkness of it was like nothing she had ever seen. She has found a list of Russian programs on TV and on the computer that explore our relationship with that country and contrasts different cultural aspects between them. Dorothy had hoped to attend our reunion but could not find transportation. She lives about three hours away from Middlebury, but it's a twisting, turning, narrow road trip through the mountains. • When I called **Phyllis Hackley Foote**, she was in the process of packing up and cleaning, getting her house ready to sell. She's moving to Maine, where she will be nearer to her daughter. Her daughter has been looking at assisted living quarters for her mother but no decision will be made until Phyllis is there and has a chance to look at them and decide what she wants. Her next-door neighbor would like to buy her house and some of the furniture along with it. She would appreciate that as she doesn't know what to do with all her furniture and can't take it all with her. Phyllis has been having trouble with her head, her throat, and her eyes. She was in two bridge groups, one of which has been decimated by illnesses and physical difficulties. At this point she really is anxious to move and to have all of that done. • **Jean Mace Burnell** was also in the process of moving when I called her. She's moving from a two-story house into an apartment in a retirement place on Lake Washington in Seattle. It's a lovely place and is only a couple of miles from her present home so she has already made several trips back and forth. She finds the big problem is how to take just what she needs and leave the rest for an estate sale. One thing Jean is looking forward to is not having to cook dinner anymore. Jean has suffered with a bad case of shingles since last February and is still in a great deal of pain and wondering if it will ever go away. Her new address is Parkshore, 1630 43rd Ave. East, Room 712, Seattle, WA 98112. • I had a long talk with **Betsy Hornaday Fry** and we both remarked on how much fun it is to have a conversation with our fellow Midd classmates. Betsy did not get to the reunion because she thought her daughter, who would usually drive her, was too busy with her own concerns. However, Betsy plans to sign her up well before our 75th reunion so she will be sure to attend at that time. Betsy is still driving but told her son that when she stops, she'll give him her car. Her son was thrilled and immediately asked if he could borrow it for two weeks for a trip he needed to take. She let him and said that she's now finding out how very difficult it will be not to have it when she needs it. Betsy was looking forward to a visit with her sister but had not yet decided what they would do for entertainment. Betsy has met another Midd alumna in her complex. When in college her name was Barbara Lukens but it's now Barbara Calkins and she is in the Class of 1951. She also met another alumna from a nearby retirement community who comes to sing with her group. Her name is Jean Huey Smolens, Class of 1948. She finds it a lot of fun to connect with them. • **Beverly Beach Grant** is still volunteering as a Friend of the Library. She enjoys the work and, as she loves reading, it helps her to keep up on what is new and what is good reading. I asked her what books she would recommend and was gratified that the first five she mentioned are on my book club list for this season. Beverly said that **Muriel Mack Lamppert** lives quite near her and she intends to go and visit her but she is so busy that her good intentions are sometimes lost. She plays bridge a great deal but now has decided to learn to play mah-jongg. Her older brother died two years ago but she and her younger sister keep in touch, telephoning each other two or three times each week. • **Natalie Simpson MacDonald**'s life changed drastically a year ago when her horse suffered injuries to its two hind legs. At this point it can't be ridden and Natalie is not sure if her horse will ever be healthy enough to ride again. The horse is happy as it's on a farm where it has plenty of "horse pals" and gets plenty to eat. She, however, very much misses riding, as she has done so all her life. At the moment she has some physical problems that have made her doctors warn her against riding. Her daughter, Bonnie, who lost her husband on 9/11, has remarried. They are going to Scotland and take a walking tour, expecting to walk border to border. Bonnie and her husband are going to buy the lot next to Natalie's on Cape Cod. Then, Natalie said, "we will have a compound." When we talked, Hurricane Irma was expected to make landfall within the next two days. Natalie was wondering if her house in Florida would make it or not, but she was more worried about her son who was there. However, he called and said he had evacuated on his own initiative. • Check out page 80 for a photo from Reunion of **Bobbie Bates Lauterwasser**.

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REUNION CLASS **Bev Boynton Kinsey** writes, "I am temporarily covering for **Adele 'Stemmie' Stemmler Taylor** and have enjoyed talking with **Gloria Pilini Miller**, **Perry Maurer Thompson**, and **Livi Remmler Rosman**. Gloria and I recently shared another big birthday! She keeps busy, enjoys yoga, and, like many of us, is cleaning out closets and making life simpler. Perry is doing well. She's still living in her home, staying busy, playing bridge, and is thinking about a trip to San Rafael, Calif. I hope she comes; I only live 20 minutes away. Livi lives in Berkeley, Calif., and has been in the same house for 51 years. She recently spent a month in Seattle attending two family weddings and visiting friends. She and her husband are well and often visit friends in Inverness, Calif. Hopefully on one of their visits we can get together. Inverness is only 15 minutes from where I live. My efforts at starting a used-book store, actually a book cart due to limited space at our local community center, is slowly catching on and raising money for the center. It's obvious books still sell if the price is right!" • **Betty Reid Buzby** proudly wears her sweatshirt in the photo on page 63!

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Correspondent **Rachel Adkins Platt** reports: Last week I had a nice telephone conversation with **Winnie Anthony Stearns**, who shared with me the recent death of husband John. He had been living in assisted living for some time there in New Hampshire and she visited him often. She says she is content in her home and plans to stay there as she has many friends and can still get out and about. She still has her delightful sense of humor and is continuing on with her life as always. Nice going, Winnie—you are an inspiration. As we talked I told her about our recent move to a senior living retirement community and she felt I should add it in the column (as I am a member of this class). • We moved about 10 minutes from our home and now have a lovely two-bedroom apartment on the first floor with a patio and garden just outside our back door. Many of our friends are here also. We keep very busy with the many programs and happy hour before dinner. We both still drive so we also get out often. • Speaking of retirement homes, I am going to go across the aisle to the male side. Sorry, Dix, but I have a lot of connections to the two I am going to write about. One is my brother, **Leon "Lee" Adkins**. He and wife Bonnie are moving to a retirement living place in Middlebury. They're looking forward to less responsibility and easy living. Enjoy, you two. • The other news I have is about **Edward "Pat" Mulligan**. Several weeks ago I received a lovely email from his daughter, Kathy Mulligan Lord '72. I knew both **Kay** (**Cooke**) and **Pat** in college, but really solidified the friendship over 12 years at Alumni College, and also with their daughter, Kathy. Kathy wrote to tell me Pat had passed on, as had her mother, Kay, a year before. The following are quotes from the obit, which touched me deeply. Our sympathy to you, Kathy, and all your family. "Pat was known for his great spaghetti sauce and the belief duct tape could solve any problem. He put great faith in education and made sure all his children were supported in their educational endeavors." His family was so important to him—his lovely wife Kay, his children, grandchildren, and all. His career led him to Towle Silver, where he became president and CEO. To quote Pat, "The beauty of silver—it gets better with use, it doesn't wear out, and it can go in the dishwasher." Rest in peace, Pat. • Leslie Lindeman '78 sent this sad news about his aunt, **Marjorie Mullen**. "Marge died on September 13 in Hendersonville, N.C., at age 89. She had a long, distinguished career in Hollywood and was one of the first women to direct a hit sitcom, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show.* She was also the script supervisor and later camera director on nearly every episode of *The Dick Van Dyke Show, The Mary Tyler Moore Show,* and *Murphy Brown.* She was an essential voice during the sitcom week as scripts were written, thrown out, rewritten, and finally taped before live audiences. Born in Brooklyn, her first job was as a production assistant on *The Home Show,* starring Arlene Francis. She later worked on *Your Show of Shows* with Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca before moving to L.A. and starting work on *The Dick Van Dyke Show.* She told friends and family back East that she 'got to go to work and laugh for a living.' Indeed, her easy, infectious laugh and her ability to know humor from pretense were qualities creators, stars, and showrunners found invaluable. She will be missed." An obituary appears in the back of this issue.

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I am so sorry to have to report the passing of **Rufus Cushman** on September 4. He was so loyal to the College despite many health problems. He served on every board and committee that asked him to join. Music was one of his passions and he sang in many choirs and choruses, including the Vermont Symphony Chorus. • **Carol Carlton Hentz Spooner** adds this note about Rufus: "His funeral, in Proctor, Vt., was attended by literally hundreds of those who knew and loved him. While at Middlebury he sang in the college choir and the men's Glee Club, ran track, and was in the Mountain Club. In 1952 he married, had three children, and was involved in more volunteer organizations than I can count. He and I were the Class of '50 fundraisers. He wrote the Nifty Fifties letters to all of you so I will especially miss him! As for me, Reg and I have been at Eastview Retirement Community for over five years. It's located by Porter

Hospital, not far from the College, a great location! We audit College courses every semester and thrive on the mental challenge. I think the students are even smarter than back in our day! Each year we get to mentor an international student, whom we keep up with even after they graduate. Of course, we also befriend the students on the Hentz Scholarship for their four years here. It helps that we no longer want to travel far and wide. If you are in the neighborhood, please stop by!"
—Class Correspondent: Virginia Orrall Albert (alan8165@outlook.com), 1451 S. Greenville Ave., Apt. 2117, Allen, TX 75002. (469-795-6310)

51 **Bill** and **Phyllis Cole Deming** attended Alumni College in August and Bill writes, "It was a big hit for all the participants." Phyllis took a course called How We Think and Why It Matters. It dealt with topics such as "What did we see and what did we miss?" and "How do we make choices not knowing the results?" They also discussed cell phone use in cars and eyewitness testimony in court cases. Bill took What Can I Say?—Free Speech in the U.S. and Europe. It was very timely and there was much discussion and disagreement. **Will** and Carolyn Bennett '61 **Jackson** were in the class. Bill also had a nice chat with Irv Meeker '50. • **Alec Marshall** saw the effects of Hurricane Jose as it washed the angry ocean waters into Cape Cod Bay via the Pamet River across their narrow peninsula in Truro, Mass. But it was nothing compared to what their family experienced in St. Thomas from Irma and Maria. Alec and Anne (Meyer) '50 had plans to spend their 40th Thanksgiving holiday visiting their family in St. Thomas, provided the airports were up and running. • **Joan Macklaier Birkett** wrote of a full summer with forest fires raging in many parts of East Kootenay area where she lives in British Columbia. Heavy smoke covered the mountains until it rained in September. Joan and her daughter visited Joan's brother, who has multiple sclerosis and is in a home in Montreal. Joan sent her best wishes to the Class of 1951. • **Gretchen Reger Mason** wrote from the UK that her daughter lives down the street from her so they are able to spend family events together. Gretchen recently celebrated her birthday with her daughter and had also visited with her son and his wife. She sent good wishes from Blighty. • **Meg Curry Gregg**'s husband, Don, was a participant on the PBS Vietnam series. Don served with the CIA and also as the ambassador to South Korea under President Bush. Don's book *Pot Shards* is a wonderful book relating the very interesting life he and Meg led as they traveled the world and met many of the world's leaders. • We are sorry to report that **Robert Bigelow** died on September 1. Our condolences are sent to his family. An obituary appears in the back of the magazine. • We hope you all enjoyed the holidays. If you "forgot" to send us your annual letter, with all your news, you can still send it and we'll use it for the next edition. And I (**Lee**) assure you, if someone takes over this FUN job, I will be sure to pass it along! Remember, this is the best way we have of keeping connected, so please keep in touch. Just as you enjoy reading about classmates, they enjoy reading about you.
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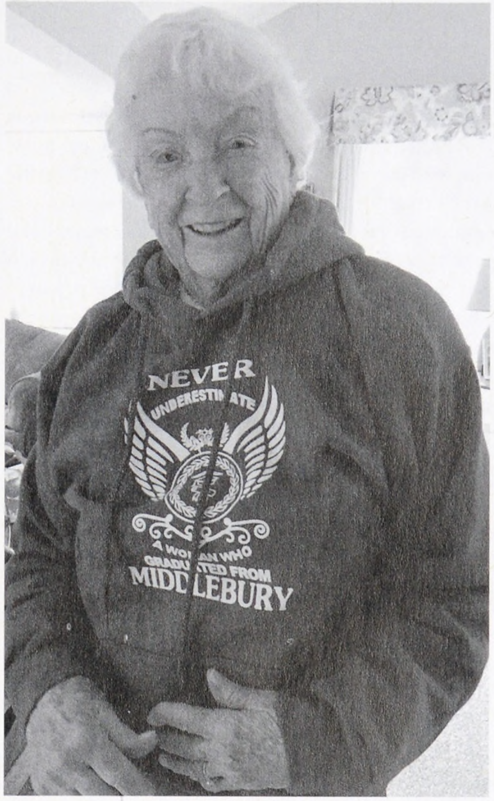
52 Correspondent **Barbara Cummiskey Villet** reports: I'm still playing catch-up after reunion and so had a long productive chat with **Sharon Locke MacCartney** recently. She had just returned from a visit to one of her two sons who lives in Montana, right at the north gate to Yellowstone. It was her sixth visit to that grand National Park, but the reality was that her son's home provided its own spectacular viewing from the living room window as elk, pronghorns, and mountain goats, the latter on nearby mountainsides, were all visible right "at home." She has four kids and four grandkids, the youngest brand new and who will require a trip to California for an introduction! Happy travels. • **Joyce Greene Wilson**, who was at Reunion with Sharon, visited with her afterwards for several days before returning to Oregon via the amazing trans-Canadian view train. It was Canada's sesquicentennial year and Joyce reported to Sharon that there were wonderful celebrations all along the way west. Satisfyng reunion, great trip home for Joyce. • Joyce Greene brings me to another traveler named Joyce—my old pal **Joyce Rohr** of Boulder, Colo. While still pursuing her love of guitar with performances and work on a biography for one of her former clients (she was an international agent for chamber music groups), she took time to travel with daughter Debbie up to the far north. It was a trip sponsored by Colorado Univ. and accommodated 30 passengers on a small ship that made its way up to arctic northern Alaska. It was a thrilling journey and included witnessing, close at hand, glaciers calving huge icebergs with a thunderous cracking sound that Joyce somehow almost made me hear in the excitement it stirred in her voice. She is well and looking forward to more such adventures. • Reunion continued for five of us who attended Alumni College over Labor Day weekend at Bread Loaf. **Sally Baldwin Utiger**—seemingly forever young—was there as were **Lee McGowan Allison**, **Shirley Herrman Andrews**, **Priscilla Norman Forschler**, and myself. Each of us took a different offering but we had meals together and caught up further with each other. **Lee** reported an interesting move in her life. She signed on for a cottage at a retirement complex called Heritage Heights in Concord, N.H., which she has found to be a pleasant addition to her life. For many years she has lived alone in the home she had on a lake in a rural setting near Freedom, N.H., the home she shared with her late husband, relishing close terms with nature, cross-country skiing to her general store, and managing her days. But wisdom and time said it made sense to have a fall back from isolation and she has found her new life at Heritage Village truly pleasant. She comes and goes at will, according to weather, season, and health but in the latter department, she is as vigorous and strong as ever. It was great to get reacquainted with her. **Sally** told of a summer officiating at the Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Longwood has grass court tennis and sponsors five National family tours each summer on their wonderful courts. Sally enjoyed the vigorous demands of being the referee but enjoys equally as much her work with "Handy Rackets," which sponsors tennis for disabled kids. She thinks of tennis not only as a lifetime sport, like no other, but also as her lifetime dedication. **Shirley** was taking long walks daily at Bread Loaf as well as doing her course work. She is necessarily preoccupied at present with sorting through the life work of Bill Andrews, her late husband, who was a distinguished professor at Harvard Law—a task that the university and her six children are assisting her with. But she was bravely herself at both Reunion and at Alumni



Sandra Buzby Whalen '79 sent this photo of her mother, Betty Reid Buzby '48. She says, "Mom is pretty amazing and we never underestimate her!"

College. As for **Priscilla**, I learned, belatedly, of the important work she has done in adoption counseling and hope to have more to tell you soon. • Finally, I had a long jolly talk with **Mary Halsted Francoeur**, who had planned to be at Reunion but at the last minute was literally stopped in her tracks by a pain and problem with her right foot and leg—the same one that her bike accident some years ago left in a shattered and ultimately screwed together state. She is fine now and is not only back on her bike but recently took herself out to a Frank Sinatra impersonation "beach party." She found if she closed her eyes, she could have sworn it was Sinatra singing—but it was the songs themselves that got to her the most so she wanted me to pass this along: "Hang on to those wonderful songs, know them well—they belong to us!" • Correspondent **Chuck Ratté** reports: I thought I'd contact some classmates to see how they fared during Hurricane Irma. I had a lengthy response from **John Bowker**, who with wife Linda lives in Sun City, Fla., a retirement community a few miles east of St. Petersburg and not far off the path of Irma. John writes, "It was an interesting week when we all learned that Hurricane Irma was barreling across the Atlantic aimed directly at us. The preparations by the state of Florida were unprecedented. Our county found all sorts of buildings suitable as shelters, and our own community of 11,000 senior citizens organized volunteer groups so no one would feel alone when our world came to an end in the pending storm. Except, in the last few hours before getting here, Irma took a new course and passed by about 30 miles to our east. Sure, we lost a few trees but we still can say that in the 120 years of records, there has never been a sustained hurricane wind here in our home for the past 26 years." John's report certainly is a testimonial to community preparedness. We are happy that you and your community were spared any more devastation. • The only report from the coastal mainland was received from **Bill Huey** on Hilton Head Island in the Carolinas. The island was evacuated for 48 hours. Strong winds and plenty of rain (with minor flooding) visited the island, but no major damage. • I received a nice letter from **David Paulson**. Dave lives in the Port Charlotte/Punta Gorda area of southeast Florida. He writes, "At the last moment Irma veered east, away from both Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte. Except for power failures, I know of no major damage to either community. I live in South Port Square, Port Charlotte, in a huge facility that is built like a fort. We did not have any power, but only had to retire from our rooms to a safer hallway for about eight hours. Our lobby was filled for a short time with those that evacuated their homes (mostly from Fort Myers)." He adds, "I now have had both hips replaced, the latest on July 5." He planned to get back to golf soon. In a side note, he wondered if I have had any recent news concerning **Bob Woodbury**. After all these years, I seem to have lost contact.

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53 **REUNION CLASS** On the weekend of June 8–10, our class will gather for our 65th reunion. We hope you can make it back to campus!

54 Correspondent **Tom Ryan** reports: In our last notes, I mentioned that the Ryans had sold their house in mid-June and planned to move to a high-rise retirement community in October. It did not go as planned. Hurricane Harvey intervened. We live on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou, a normally placid stretch of water that flows from the western reaches of Houston through the downtown area to the Ship Channel. At our house, the bayou has never flooded. It rained some on Friday, August 25, and on Saturday (10–12 inches). Then the heavy rains began (4–6 inches/hour). By 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, Buffalo Bayou was out of its banks and on our front lawn. At 9:20, a friend and neighbor banged on our door and yelled, "You're leaving!" And we did. For six days. We stayed with them because our street was impassable with four feet of water on it. The depth of the bayou near our house rose from 25 feet to 64 feet. Flood stage is 50 feet. The flow rate went from 125 cubic feet per second to 16,000 cubic feet per second. Ultimately, the damage to our (now rental) house was minimal, unlike many others. In the Greater Houston area where 35 inches to 55 inches of rain fell in about three days, over 30,000 homes were badly damaged (we got 38 inches). And yet, the city worked at survival and recovery really well! Everybody was taking in friends, relatives, and perfect strangers. Anybody with a usable boat, kayak, dump truck, monster truck, or whatever, was out and removing people from flooded homes. I had a friend removed from his second story window in an air boat brought over from Louisiana by the Cajun Navy. Corporations opened their doors and wallets. Academy Sports offered first responders everything they had (boats, life jackets, generators, flashlights, etc.) plus a place to sleep and eat, which they also furnished. And others did the same. The flooding problem was exacerbated by the need of the Corps of Engineers to release water from two overloaded upstream earthen dams. Although the rain had stopped, the flow of water through the bayou system did not diminish, and in some cases, increased. The sun was finally shining, but many still had five feet of water in their homes. And only a minor percentage had flood insurance. If you have insurance and money, the flood is only a minor "bump in the road." If you don't, you have real problems. The water is gone now and we are starting, again, to see what can be done to minimize damage if/when anything similar recurs. Better dams, better detention/retention ponds, larger sewers, better real estate permitting, changes in the flood insurance program, etc. And the recriminations and lawsuits are starting. But I'm not sure anything can offer complete protection from over 50 inches of rain. • Moving on to Hurricane Irma, **Jim Barnard**, living near Tampa, Fla., said Irma left them almost untouched. No damage, no flooding, but they were without power for three days. "An inconvenience. But the storm was whimsical, hitting some areas much harder than others. Jacksonville really got it!" • And from the rest of the world, **Chuck Steinecke** remains active and connected "with a house and 10 acres in Winter Harbor, Maine, with sailing, golf, fishing, and all the maintenance chores that go with it. I enjoy all of that, particularly when I have a good supply of visitors. The rest of the year, I'm at a continuing care community in Maryland, which is a very different lifestyle (except for the golf), but I benefit from being near our three young-uns and their families. They've already begun offering to share the 750-mile drive to Winter Harbor with me, which is kind, but also a reminder of my advancing age." • Let's stay as active and connected as Chuck!

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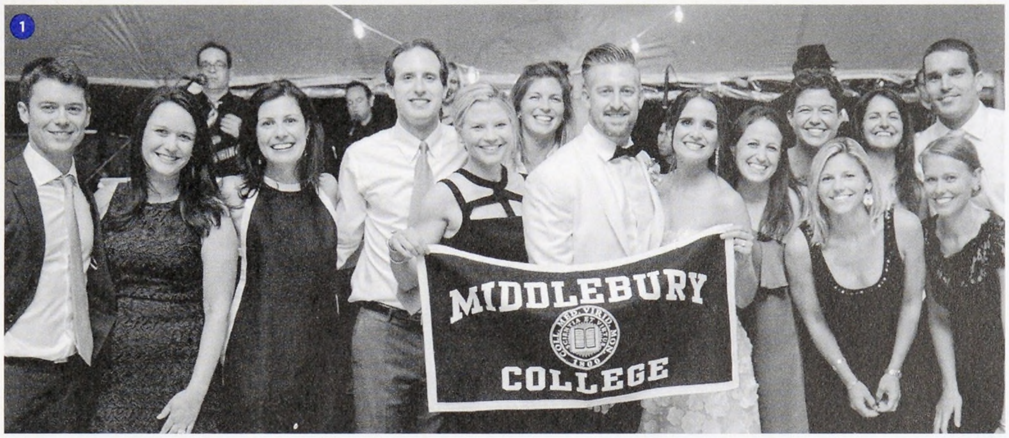
55 Correspondent **John Baker** reports: **Alden Lank** and his wife are happily settled into their retirement community in Hingham, Mass. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends on October 5. "Looking forward to our February vacation in Nicaragua and Panama. As these two places have huge bird populations, we will be in paradise as nature photography is my favorite hobby." • Linda and **Frank Punderson** have a new address: 122 Deer Meadow, Eastview, Middlebury, VT 05753. • In Wilton, Conn., **Alan Gould** is still working and volunteering. "We continue to support programs for those with hearing loss by helping to make our community 'Hearing Friendly.' I'm working with local Wilton leaders, encouraging the installation of an Induction Loop System, designed to enhance volume for those with hearing aids using the T-coil switch. I still appreciate great jazz in every form and have shared music favorites with many of our classmates. Pat is still with ERB and presented at the ERB fall conference in Boston." • **Jamieson Kennedy** and **EB Baker**'s emails bounced back. What are your new email addresses? • I'm still busy. Just turned in the last bit of artwork to W. W. Norton for an expanded version of my book *American House Styles: A Concise Guide*, which has been in print for 23 years. Stay tuned. • And lastly, a bit of sad news: **Bill Gussman** died. His daughter, Elizabeth, sent the following: "William Hayward 'Bill' Gussman, who received his BA from Middlebury in Spanish in 1955 and his MA from Middlebury in French in 1956, died on August 9, 2017, and will be greatly missed by family and friends. Bill's Middlebury studies included classes abroad at the University of Madrid and the Sorbonne in Paris, and he was fluent in Spanish, French, and German. Bill served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, taught French briefly at the Berkshire School in Massachusetts, and went on to join the U.S. Foreign Service in 1964. During Bill's distinguished diplomatic career, he served in West Berlin, Montevideo, Brussels, Bonn, and Washington, D.C. Bill met the love of his life, Nancy Nemcovich, on a blind date in Washington in February 1961 and they were married on September 22, 1962, and, following a honeymoon to South America, had four children. Bill was born in Roxbury, Vt., was a longtime resident of Bethesda, Md., and enjoyed his historic summer home on Lake Champlain in Essex, N.Y." • Abbie Fassnacht sent this note about husband **Jack Fassnacht**: "Jack lives in the memory care unit at the Admiral at the Lake, a Kendal community in Chicago. I live in an apartment in the same building overlooking Lake Michigan and still travel to our summer place in Brooksville, Maine." • Correspondent **Carlene Snyder Howland** reports: Great enthusiasm was reported about this year's Alumni College. **Sally Dickerman Brew** wrote that it was a grand gathering of '55ers and spouses. "We started our gathering with eight of us on the Middlebury golf course enjoying beautiful weather and scenery. Wednesday night we had the traditional dinner at Linda and **Frank Punderson's** home with its beautiful views of mountains and fields, just outside Middlebury. They prepared a most delicious meal. Since they had just sold their lovely house, we realized that would be our last time together there. We toasted them for the many years we have enjoyed their hospitality. The classes taken were Geology of Vermont, Free Speech, British Crime Drama, How We Think, and Food Politics. The 'thinking' group were amazed they did not see the gorilla that came into the room during class! All reported classes were very stimulating. One treat in the evening was seeing the classic movie, *Murder on the Orient Express*. Of course, we had the beautiful setting of Bread Loaf and the bountiful meals in the Inn. During the pre-dinner social hours on the lawn, there was animated talk of subjects such as the best hearing aids, adjusting to living in a retirement community, slower pace of life, older age health problems, and stories from the past. Attending were **Bruce** and **Sue Heyer Byers**, Dave and **Sally Brew**, Caleb and **Sidney Brock Gates**, **Nancy Walker Faulkner**, **Carolyn Edgar Goodrham** (who traveled from her home in England), **John** and **Kathy Hughes von Hartz**, Linda and **Frank Punderson**, **Judd Zecher Colton**, Peter and **Scotty MacGregor Gillette**, **Junie Stringer DeCoster**, and **Dick** and **Mary Lou King Wollmar**. Junie, Judd, the Brews, and the Pundersons all have grandchildren at the College. We definitely all look forward to the next Alumni College and hope more of our classmates will join us." • **Mary Lou Wollmar** added that husband



① Kristen Herzog '06 and James Van Dyke were married on June 25, 2016, at the Kontokosta Winery in Greenport, N.Y. Middlebury friends who helped them celebrate included (all '06 unless noted) Clark Peterson, Emily Lisbon Peterson, Celia Cohen, Travis Meyer, Elizabeth Johnston, Channing Weymouth Warner, the newlyweds, Julia Cardozo, Emily Enos, Allison Smith Connelly, Anna Spiegel Gordon, Whitney Boglioli Lodigiani, and Bryan Lodigiani '05. ② A large contingent of Middlebury alums attended a memorial service for Ben Stone '76 at the New England Aquarium: (all '76 unless noted) Robin Wonnacott Davis, Jennifer Cogswell, Nancy Clark Herter, Ellen Fisher '77, Jacqui Sulek, Cathy Colton Drake, (second row) Tom Hitch, Bruce Smith, Kathy Freeman Ronan, Paula Daukas, Stephen Pohl, Jonathan Drake '78, John Lambert, Kim Caldwell, (third row) Betsy Sherman Walker, John Woods, Austin Hart, Ali Kahn, Garrett Moran, Katie Troast, Kevin Dennis, and Rebecca Kellogg.

③ At the graduation of the Class of 2017 from St. Sebastian's School in Needham, Mass., several Midd alums got together for a photo: Conor Shapiro '03 with Evan Shapiro, Eric Shapiro '74 with Maura Shapiro, Bill Burke '73 (headmaster), Patty Burke, and Charlie Gordon '19 (son of Dick Gordon '75). ④ Many Midd Kids are studying at the Univ. of Virginia Darden School of Business: Maeve McGilloway '10, Sydney Hartsock '05, Madeline Dubner '11, Claire Williams '10, Heather Marrison '13, and Tom Levin '12. Not pictured: Kyle Perez '09, Michael Malhame '11, and Kelsey Ferguson '11.

Dick took the agriculture course, loved the teacher and hearing about new trends in local gardens, and was appreciated for knowledge he gained over his years with farmers' markets, and locavores. She took the British Drama course with three other classmates, including **Carolyn Goodrham**, **Nancy Faulkner**, and **Judd Colton**. "On our way to our daughter, Monica, we went to Georgetown, Maine, to sail with our son and his wife, for the last sailing weekend of the season." • **Dave** and **Jojo Kittell Corey** continue to pursue their love of opera. "In June, we joined cousin Gayl Maxwell Braisted '59 at the Middlebury Town Hall to see Verdi's rarely performed *Triptych*. In July we were with Betty and **Marcie Garcia** at Opera Saratoga to see *Falstaff*. Later, we attended a marathon of four different operas (in four days) at Glimmerglass, in Cooperstown, N.Y. This included *Scalia and Ginsburg*, which featured Bill Burden '86 as Scalia. Bill also had a part in *Oklahoma* the next day."

—Class Correspondents: John M. Baker (jmbaker@bestweb.net), 76 Spooner Hill Rd., South Kent, CT 06785; Carlene Snyder Howland (carlene55midd@juno.com).

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News is always welcome and we thank everyone who sent in some for our class notes. **Lynne Atherton** writes, "I attended Alumni College for the first time and found it to be outstanding! Staying in the perfectly refurbished Bread Loaf Inn was a treat (complete with frost on the roof one day). **Bill** and **Joan MacKinnon Houghton**, **Sally Thomson Clark**, and **Ralph Brown** also came. There were some 150 or so alumni, relatives, and friends—a wonderful mixture. President Laurie Patton's talk was thrilling to me. I urged her to take on the topic of the U.S. 'Injustice System' as a Middlebury emphasis. Having been corresponding with a prisoner for three years through a church program, I can no longer sit idly by, ignoring today's version of slavery. Please—watch *13th*, a Netflix Oscar-nominated documentary on the 13th Amendment." Alumni College always draws rave reviews, so thank you, Lynne. Thanks also for the volunteer work you do and the advocacy you promote and your implicit challenge to the rest of us to become better-informed citizens. • **Barbara Widnall Williams** wrote earlier in the fall: "Jim and I spent seven weeks this summer at our family cottage on the water in Connecticut. Our daughter, Karen, was there for six weeks and we visited many old friends, spent a lot of time watching sailing races and other traffic on Long Island Sound, and especially enjoyed taking advantage of the great seafood! With both of us having limited mobility, getting around was tough. But Karen made sure to get us out for nice dinners at our favorite summer spots and even got us to attend a couple of neighborhood gatherings like the beach potluck and the ice cream social. Karen hosted her annual porch party over Labor Day weekend and it was a surprise birthday party for me in anticipation of #83 on September 21. We then returned to the D.C. area ready to stave off the infidels for another year!" (Sadly, Jim Williams passed away in October. Barbara can be reached either by regular mail at 8928 Maurice Lane, Annandale, VA 22033, or via her daughter's email at sportsnutvt@verizon.net.) • **John Chase** sends in his update: "The 80s sometimes present health challenges. I have spinal problems and have lost mobility. Travel is out but friendships and memories exist. Barbara is my caregiver in a wonderful retirement home here north of San Francisco. Above the waist I'm terrific. Cheers!" Great attitude, John! John can be reached at bjchasehome@comcast.net or at 400 Deer Valley Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903. • **Lucy Boyd Littlefield** reports, sadly, that **Cynthia Holt Hunt** died in July. "Cynthia had the most beautiful smile, bright, sparkling eyes, and a happy, joyful personality. We both lived in Weybridge House our sophomore year. She had fallen in love with Jim Hunt, who was a senior and who was going to the London School of Economics after he graduated, so they decided to marry and Cynnie left Middlebury after two years. Three of us from Weybridge House drove out to their lovely wedding on the shore of White Bear Lake, Minn., where she had grown up. It was my first driving trip from the East across the Mississippi. Coincidentally my granddaughter now lives very close to White Bear Lake and I think of Cynthia and that happy time when I visit her. Our deepest condolences to her family." • **Dick Powell** shares his remembrances of **Pete Strife**: "Pete was an old friend from first grade at Edgemont School in Scarsdale, N.Y., on. In those days he was a bit of a cut up, funny and energetic. He was the talk of the class in 1940 when he announced that he had a new younger brother, Freddy. Pete loved sports—tennis, football, skiing. We played on Scarsdale's undefeated football team in our junior and senior years. He was a fierce competitor even off the field as well. Seems in high school when I started dating someone he would ask her out. He admitted this in the high school yearbook saying, 'Sorry about interrupting your romances.' And that continued at Midd! Still he, **Ned MacDowell**, and I pledged Chi Psi together. He was fun to be around, especially when we greeted each other with belly bumps. He was a dedicated and hardworking student, particularly with his premed courses. He left Midd his senior year for Penn to pursue his lifelong work in dentistry, which he practiced with distinction. His *New York Times* obituary captured his professional life this way: 'To his chosen field of dentistry, he brought a professionalism, integrity, and compassion for which he will always be remembered by his associates, peers, students, and of course, patients.' Pete Strife was a neat guy. I miss him." • We also sadly report the death of **Clarence "Curt" Curtis** in August. Curt, a 3/2 student, received two bachelor degrees simultaneously from both Middlebury and RPI under the Affiliated Colleges Engineering Program. Upon graduation, he was sworn into the Army, serving from 1957–84, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Early in his military career, he also received an MBA from Syracuse Univ., where he met his future wife, Jane, to whom he was married 49 years. Curt was subsequently selected for the Army Comptrollership program and served in financial management capacities in Korea and Pennsylvania. After retiring from the Army, he held various positions with NSA for eleven years. Curt is survived by his son and two grandchildren, to whom we extend our sincere condolences. • Keep the news coming so that we can better stay in touch, and if you have any change in contact information, do let us know. Many thanks!

—Class Correspondents: Stan Hayward (sandphayward@yahoo.com), 1911 Wildflower Circle, Medford, OR 97504; Lucy Boyd Littlefield (ljblsquam@aol.com), 15 Norwood Heights, Gloucester, MA 01930.

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We are still looking for a class correspondent for the Class of 1957. Meanwhile, **Hugh Marlow** writes, "I enjoyed chatting with **Fred Van Vranken** who was back on campus to see his granddaughter, Meghan Keating '21, play for the women's hockey team. Fred's daughter, Cynthia Keating, is also a Midd alum, Class of 1985, as is daughter Ginia Ziobro '82 and grandson Geoffrey Ziobro '17!"

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REUNION CLASS A very enviable tale is told of **Lyndie Smith Lamson**'s life in recent years: "We have the travel bug! Since Tom '55 retired, we have enjoyed many wonderful travel experiences—all seem to be favorites. Having a son who lives in Ireland, we are often there. We have toured most of continental Europe, some countries several times driving with friends, leading to some interesting and unplanned escapades. Most recently, we have discovered small-boat and riverboat cruising, leaving the driving to someone else. More adventurous travel has taken us skiing in the West and the Alps, to the Galápagos and South America, hiking in the Canadian Rockies, safaris in Africa, to New Zealand and Australia, cruising the Dalmatian Coast, and most recently, Iceland. Our own National Parks are a treasure. Coming home, our question is always, 'Where to next?' We hope to continue being 80 years young!" • **Alex Horniman**, a longtime professor at the Darden School of Business, Univ. of Virginia (UVA), Charlottesville, shares, "Forty-five years ago, I created the Olsson Center for Applied Ethics at UVA, one of the first ethical studies programs in the country, and also, during my tenure I was the recipient of the Thomas Jefferson Award, UVA's highest honor. I can attribute significant planting of professorial perspective within me to two of my professors at Middlebury, D. K. Smith (professor of economics), and Walter Bogart (professor of political science)." Kudos to you, **Alex**, for a remarkable career! • Retired dentist **Harlan Cummings** shares a few reflections: "I'm grateful for my educational experience at Middlebury. The faculty was superb in both the arts and sciences and, at my time, offered the pre-professional program for dental and medical schools. Also, it was great to find a fraternity without any discrimination. At present, my wife and I are enjoying working on our 70 acres of land in Vermont and vacationing at our home in Martha's Vineyard, Mass. We spend two to three months during the winter near Malibu, Calif. I wish all of my classmates good health and happiness." Thanks, Harlan! • From **Bob Fatherley** we heard, "After graduating from Middlebury, I began a career teaching at Oakwood Friends School in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, and Friends Academy in Locust Valley, Long Island. Along the way, I earned a degree at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, which was followed by headmasterships at the Miami Valley School in Dayton, Ohio, and Wilmington Friends School in Delaware. In 1984, I made a major career change into the world of financial advising with the Equitable, retiring in 2006. I'm now fully retired, living happily with my wife, Julie, in Westport, Conn. I met her in Philadelphia in 1962, and we were married in 1963. She was an art teacher for several years and is currently active as an artist of abstract painting, whose colors and patterns are displayed in many homes. We have been blessed with two sons, Quinn, aged 50, and Christopher, aged 48, their wonderful wives, and five thriving grandchildren. Quinn is an engineer at Los Alamos Labs, N.M., and Christopher is a self-employed specialist in information technology in Fairfield, Conn. My life is chock-full of activities that include membership in the Y's Men of Westport and Weston and a senior men's association of 452 members where I am an avid hiker; I also run a classical music society and serve as chairman of the town-appointed Commission on Senior Services, an advocacy group for older people living in Westport. Julie and I spend a lot of time gardening, walking, and hiking. As Woody Woodpecker said, 'That's it; that's all, folks.'" Thanks, Bob, for a wonderful catch-up! • **Dick Fusco** writes, "After graduation I was drafted by the Montreal Aloettes football team and the New York Giants football team. I went on and played with the Giants under coach Vince Lombardi. Unfortunately, I sustained an injury my first year and was forced to withdraw from the team. But, best of all, I met my wife in Detroit, Mich., and we have been married for 58 years. We have three wonderful children and seven grandchildren. Middlebury College was a positive influence in my life. I earned two master's degrees and pursued a career in education. My final position was principal of a large high school in Massachusetts. People that influenced me most while at Middlebury College were John Kirk for enrolling me, Dr. Merriman, English professor, who spent nights at his kitchen table going over assignments, and Colonel Saunders, head of ROTC, who called me weekly to see how I was doing. Thank you, Middlebury College!" And, thank you, Dick, for sharing some of your exceptional family and career accomplishments with us. • A fascinating and fun update came from **Rocky Fawcett**: "I arrived at Middlebury in the fall of 1954, lasted one-and-a-half years, and loved sports and girls more than the books (**Ginny Davis** tried to keep me in school). I coached sports at Greenwich Country Day School and took classes at Columbia for a couple of years and somehow got into the Univ. of Pennsylvania. I settled down and got married in 1958, had a child in 1959, and graduated Dean's List in 1960. I then attended the UVA Law School but realized the law wasn't for me. I left for NYC to get into advertising and marketing and stayed 20 years; but I wanted to get out of the rat race and moved to Williamstown, Mass., to work for a small agency. I stayed five years and along the way had three more kids and a few more wives. I ended up as publisher of *American Fitness Magazine* in Los Angeles for the next 20 years. I wanted to retire and bought land on the Moose River and moved with my wife, Mary, to Lyons Falls, N.Y., 12 years ago. Retirement lasted one week—I became very involved in the community, serving on many boards and becoming supervisor (mayor) of the town of Lyonsdale. Presently I serve as a Lewis County legislator (up for my second term) and chairman of the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency. I'm not sure when I will retire. I loved Middlebury—in fact, I think I have supported the Annual Fund almost every fifth reunion year, as I will this year." Thank you, Rocky; you are one busy man! • Thanks to all our loyal classmates who contributed to this issue of *Middlebury Magazine* through our class column. We appreciate your participation and hope to see *all* our classmates at our 60th reunion, June 8–10. Remember our goal: Sixty percent participation—60 for 60!

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Some classmates sent news about the fall hurricanes. **Stuart Purdy** reported that Houston was drying out. "The house survived but I lost my car! The worst part is the anticipation and the last 24 hours before it hits. Will it, won't it, how much, when, what should I do, where will I go if the house is destroyed, and I wanted to run." (Correspondent note: He did not seem concerned about his vast wine cellar.) On the lighter side, he planned to be in Puerta Vallarta in November, then 13 days on the *Queen Elizabeth* from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale, jogging his troubles away on the promenade deck. And he says he is still working! • **Don Collier** reports that Hurricane Irma was to blame for his loss of computer and TV. He wasn't worried about the TV but he wanted his computer back. • **Peter Talbott** reported the family made it through Irma in Seminole, Fla. They lost power for four days and had a two-foot water surge. Tree debris piled up like snowdrifts up north. • **John Rich**'s Coast Guard son flew helicopter missions over Houston, rescuing 35 people from floodwaters the first day of Harvey. Irma did significant damage to his other son's home in Florida. • **Bill Hahn** reports that Anna Maria Island, his winter refuge, survived Irma. • **John Rich** organized a family reunion in July on Squam Lake, N.H., (a.k.a. Golden Pond) at a cottage that was in the family for four generations. This is where he proposed to his now deceased wife, Marilyn. • **Barbara Hart Decker** enjoyed her cruise to Alaska with her youngest son, a trip that had been on her wish list since she and **Ailene Kane Rogers** stayed at the Wilderness Association in 1960, where they met explorers Olaus and Mardy Murie. Highlights of Barb's trip were a whale watch, a river trip, and historic trails. • **Fred Swan**, Barb Decker, and Ailene Rogers attended the 60th anniversary of the Student Conservation Association at Teton Village, Wyo. Fred and Pat also visited the best man from their wedding and took a two-week tour of Iceland. **Andy Montgomery** comments, "Seems like Iceland should be on our respective bucket lists." Due to Pat's knee replacement, Fred was a full-time driver and chef through September. • **Nancy Frame Sveden** visited her Norway family, whom she had met 57 years ago in the Experiment in International Living. Her Norwegian "sister," Unni, is the international champion in our age class in the sport of orienteering (racing through the forest with map and compass), "so we spent most of the time walking down to the fjord and back up, backpacking doing grocery shopping en route. I also spent four days in Brittany with a wonderful couple I'd met on a plane four years ago. My friends said I was insane. Not at all! My logbook says, 'She believed she could, so she did.' Amen to that!" • **Ruth Wininger Reiterman** and daughter Ellen returned to live in Ashland, Ore. Following recovery from a compound fractured femur, Ruth no longer drives. Fortunately, Ellen chauffeurs. Ruth misses the Southwest but looks forward to exploring the Northwest. "And it will be refreshing to live in a state more progressive than Utah!" • **Avery Tillinghast** had a successful sailing season. He won the Sunfish class again and finished fifth in the International 110 group. He was the oldest skipper to win in club history, three months shy of his 80th birthday. "Goathood" is most rewarding! • Bob and **Carolyn Parks Behr** made a nostalgic visit to Wilmington, Del., where they had lived for many years, visiting places including the independent school where Bob had taught English and writing and coached track and cross country. The occasion was Bob's induction into the Delaware Sports Hall of Fame, which recognizes long-term accomplishments. He was tapped for the Delaware Track Hall of Fame long ago, "but it was nice to be recognized more widely for his many state champion teams and individuals and for inspiring in his student-athletes the qualities of maturity, courage, mental strength, and grace under pressure." • **Charlie Davis** reported on September 20 that the current weather report for his cabin at 5,000 feet in McCall, Idaho, was "electrical storms causing fire and snow." I prefer the 30 below at Midd. • **John Medici** attended a large mineral show in Denver. He and his sons chase crystals in Colorado and Flint Ridge, Ohio. John's health restricts him from "hunting minerals" above 5,000 feet so they headed for the Twin Peaks area in Utah, which produced nice crystals and was extremely photogenic country. • And on a sad note, **Paul Schosberg** passed away on September 25 after complications from surgery and a long battle with cancer and **Susan Miner Smith** passed away August 26. • **Dick Krasker** is already urging his KDR classmates to reserve June 7–9, 2019, for our 60th reunion. Dick is involved in funds to update an aquifer study with hopes that Poland Springs may build a new bottling plant in Fryeburg, Maine. With a tax base increase comes jobs and lower taxes. • Reunion co-chairs **Andy Montgomery** and **Nancy Sveden** urge, "Classmates, put June 7–9, 2019, on your calendars now. It will be our 60th reunion and we may be going back to the '50s."

—Class Correspondents: Lucy Paine Kezar (lucypainekezar@myfairpoint.net), 134 Main St., Kingston, NH 03848; Andy Montgomery (joyandym@aol.com), 8910 Hilloway Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55347.

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In 1969 a group of Sig Eps from '59 to '62 began a series of reunions in the pastures of Vermont, Connecticut, and New Hampshire, which came to be called "festivals." The tradition continues. In August 2017 more than 60 Midd alumni gathered at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes. Vt. Attendees from our class included Bette and **John Gilwee**, **Bruce** and **Genie Cannon Burnham**, **Dave** and **Sue Goodwin Hopkins**, Lee and **Joe Bujold**, **Dick Atkinson**, **Breck** and **Sue Hibbert Lardner**, **Lowrie Gibb**, **Al** and Jean Yeomans '62 **Lamson**, and **Jean Seeler-Gifford**. Special guests were Hugh Marlow '57 and Mike Karin '59, captains of the Middlebury hockey team from our time. • Alumni College in August saw **Mike Robinson**, **Jean Emrich Battelle** and daughter Torey '85, and **Jean Seeler-Gifford** at Bread Loaf for a glorious weekend. Jean Battelle has moved to Wake Robin in South Burlington. Mike represented our class at Alumni Leadership Conference over Homecoming weekend. • **Judy Falby Tuttle** enjoyed a trip to Sardinia with one of her sons. She writes, "Magnificent mountains of white marble and water so clear they brag about it. Great fun!" • We are sad to report the passing of **Michael Bonomo** on August 9. He was a history major. Mike was a member of PKT, the Young Republican Club, the Science Club, and worked on the Community Chest. • Thanks in advance for your holiday cards and letters. Your news will appear in the spring magazine. • Please note that **Jean Seeler-Gifford** has a new address. She moved into the renovated Battell Block in the center of town.

—Class Correspondents: Jean Seeler-Gifford (jeandave@mindspring.com), 10 Merchants Row, Apt. 330, Middlebury, VT 05753; Vcevy Strekalovsky (vcevy@strekalovskyarchitecture.com), 47 Fearing Rd., Hingham, MA 02043; Nancy Mumford Mulvey (nandonmulv@gmail.com), 104 High Plain Rd., Andover, MA 01810.

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From Sarasota, Fla., **John Williams** reports that he survived Hurricane Irma with the help of a generator. Although he has arthritis, John has been able to travel several places in the U.S. to visit friends and family. When we heard from him, he was planning a trip back to Vermont for deer hunting season. • It was good to hear from **Lee Leonard**, who left Middlebury after two years. He served in the Army and then graduated from Cornell Univ. Lee tells us that by chance he ran into **Bert "Zip" Vonderahe**. They have mutual friends and Lee was invited to attend their annual reunion in the Adirondacks. Zip has battled cancer during the past year and is now cancer free. He was looking forward to attending the Dissipated Eight reunion this past November. • Your class correspondent did some solo traveling last summer. First was a cruise from Copenhagen to Norway and Scotland, including the Shetland Islands and the Isle of Skye. A second trip, via Road Scholar, was to "Iconic National Parks" and included the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone, Glacier, Banff, and Lake Louise. • On a sad note, we report that **Melinda Robart Ryder** passed away on September 6. The class sends condolences to her family. An obituary appears in the back of this issue.

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I (**Liza**) recently returned from a trip to Moscow and St. Petersburg. The trip was organized through *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine so the emphasis was on art in Russia. It was a high-end trip so we had top hotels and excellent food but the special part was early entry into museums and visits to contemporary art studios. Russian artists have been dismissed by the West for a long time and are just now being discovered. A big surprise was how much we enjoyed Moscow, with the Kremlin with the diamond fund (I have never seen so many gems in one place), the beautiful onion-domed churches, the gardens, the subway, which is clean, speedy, and has art at every stop, and museums with both Russian art and Western (a large collection of Impressionists at the Pushkin). I certainly learned a great deal about Russian culture, history, and art from this trip and continue to read more and more. • **Pete Johnson** writes, "About three years ago, Janie (Bachelder) '63 and I moved from North Carolina back to Manchester, Vt., which was my hometown during my Middlebury years. Vermont feels much more like home for both of us; the summers are sweeter and Janie is not permitted to complain about the cold in winter. I tried skiing and enjoyed it but felt I was too tentative (age-related problem) and knew I'd get hurt sooner or later so I gave it up after one season. We found a great house that needed lots of TLC, and some cash, so we gave it a do-over and it's turned out pretty well. We are using the extra space to house Air BnB guests, which has been incredibly interesting and enjoyable. Our guests have hailed from all over the U.S. and about a dozen other countries. In addition, I'm volunteering as a guardian ad litem. Literally that means 'voice in court' for neglected and abused children. It has been an eye-opener for sure, but very interesting. Rounding things out, we have five grandchildren with two in college at UMass Amherst and the Univ. of Chicago."

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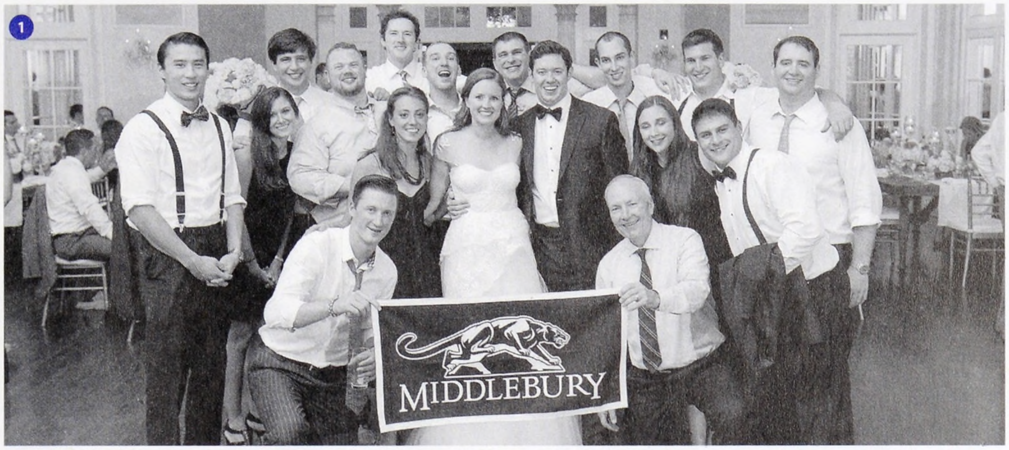
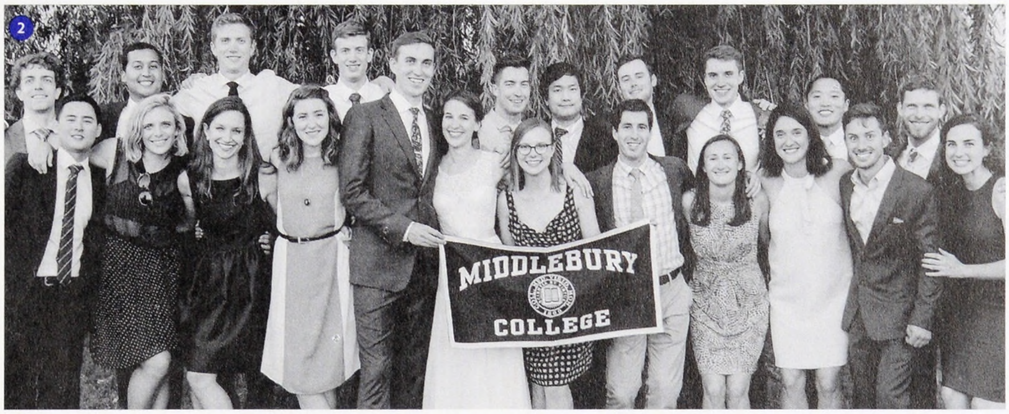
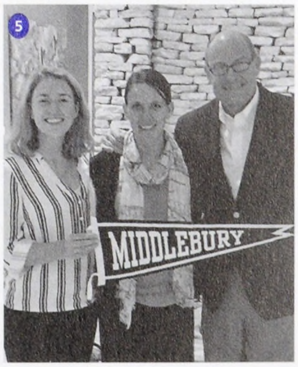
REUNION CLASS We sadly open with the death of **Frederick Davis** on August 13 in Seattle. "Pebbles," as we knew him, after graduation studied orthopedics at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, where he met his wife Dottie. They moved to Seattle in 1968, where he established a successful practice and also became an avid sailor, becoming a life member of the Seattle Yacht Club, which led to extensive sailing ventures throughout the Pacific. • Correspondent **Chris White**, an ATO at Middlebury, joined an informal gathering of KDR brothers and wives hosted in South Bristol, Maine, by **"Koko" Hart Harris** and husband John '61. Attendees included **Lyman Orton** and Janice Izzi, Holly and **Dan Donaldson**, Kathy and **Dick Floyd**, Emmalie and **Larry Silvester**, Leslie and **Chip Silloway**, **Courtney** and Carolyn Cooper '61 **Bird**, **Peter Frame**, and **Bob Pullen**. Most attendees stayed in a nearby bed and breakfast. Folks were free to take on all sorts of Maine adventures—hiking, boating, golf, exploring museums, etc. Each evening, everyone gathered at wharf-side restaurants, allowing all to share. The unstructured nature allowed everyone to exercise their freedoms of choice. Breaking bread together each night accentuated our common Middlebury experiences. A fine model for others to follow between now and our 55th in June on campus. Try it! It's fun! • Phone calls and emails have produced the following: **Dave Akin** (Harwich, Mass.) spent much of the past summer sailing the coast of New England. During last winter, he skied Stowe, Sunapee, and Okemo. He expects to expand his orbits during 2018. Hopefully we will see him in June on campus. • **Charlie Buell** (Norwich, Vt.) has been in continuous contact with **Liam English** and **Chuck** and **Sue Handy Burdick** in Middlebury. Charlie has created a course for seniors based on the recent book *Hillbilly Elegy*, looking in depth into the migration of folks from Northern Ireland to the Appalachians. • **Bill Fox** (Northridge, Calif.) at 80+ still owns and operates Top Dog Hotdog catering, serving private and business events in the L.A. area. Bill enrolled as a freshman at Middlebury in 1955, then took a leave of absence to become an Army Russian linguist (spook) before returning to Middlebury to graduate with us. He has some wonderful tales to tell about Ma Kelly and relationships with DKE brothers. • **John Iacovino** (Wallace, N.C.) has remained in contact with **Bruce Bjornlund**, **Pete Pringle**, and **Peter Schosberg**. He and wife Anita enjoy roller skating and have traveled extensively in the Southeast. At the time of this writing, they were looking forward to a visit with Ed Naylor '64 on Hilton Head in October. • **Jack Kytle** (Stowe, Vt.) maintains contact with **Steve "Bugsy" Adams**, **Sabin Streeter**, **Chuck Savage**, and **Bob Graham**. Jack continues to play tennis and trail bike. Every spring, he and wife Tari travel to New Orleans. As a consequence, he loves to play piano. Perhaps we can entice him to play some tunes at Reunion? • **Al Ross** (Lakewood, N.J.) retired in 2006 from Revlon and has traveled extensively worldwide. He has two daughters and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He maintains contact with **Larry Ring**, **Bill Temple**, and **Bill Delahunt**. • **Emmett Van Buskirk** (Bristol, Vt.) continues his art as a painter, but now has taken on the task of writing an autobiography. He maintains contact with **Doug Crandall**. He and wife Josephine stay pretty close to home except for occasional jaunts to visit their children and grandchildren in Gainesville, Fla., and Falls Church, Va. • **Jim Woods** (Fairport, N.Y.) has been married 52 years and he and his wife were planning to leave for a trip to Africa. • **Dan Zeman** (Fairfax Station, Va.) and Chris Baker planned to tailgate the Steelers/Ravens game in Baltimore under the old Theta Chi flag and "text bomb" **Bill Muros**. Dan and **Bill** and **Barb Brown Starkey** continue to attend the George Mason University Concert Series. In addition to sporadic D.C. visits last winter, he spent New Year's Day playing blackjack in Mesquite, Nev., followed on January 2 by negotiating the Canyon Outlook Trail at Zion National Park. • **Ann Shumann Pellegrino** writes that post-75 life has been good for Lou and her in Lafayette, Ind. Their oldest daughter, her husband, and 9-year-old grandson live in South Bend. Their younger daughter, husband, and two grandsons, 13 and 15, live south of them in Bloomington. It's great to be halfway between them. Ann stays busy as a volunteer preparing tax returns for Purdue's large population of international grad students and postdocs. She gets to meet fascinating people and loves it. We hope she comes to Reunion but she dislikes long car trips and Lou hates to fly. So maybe a train trip? Anyway, good to catch up. • It was fun to hear from **Vera Maggia Plummer** (Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.) who sent me (**Janie**) warm congratulations on my new job as class co-correspondent. Thanks, Vera! She misses the splendor of both





① In Rye, N.Y., Matt Cawley '12 and Emily Baird were married on August 6, 2016, with a crowd of Middlebury friends in attendance: (all '12 unless noted) Michael Griffin, Jeff Johnson '82, (second row) Silas Wong, Lizzie Roberts Wong '11, the newlyweds, Andrea Buono '11, Phil Cutler, (third row) Emme Ackerman '13, Chris Dola, Pat Downey, Riley O'Rourke, Mike Bilodeau, Dan Lungo '13, Winslow Hicks, Ken LeStrange, and Steve Marino. ② Shelley Carlberg '11 and Ryan Scura '11 were married in Vermont on August 27, 2016, with a large contingent of Middlebury friends in attendance: (all '11 unless noted) Will Piekos, Sophie Clarke, Sarafina Midzik, Carolyn Fox Weir, the newlyweds, Kaitlin Ofman '10, Josh Aichenbaum, Christina Kunycky, Grace Close, Jake Moritz, Melissa Segil, (second row) Derek Campbell, Adam Jeevaratnam, Ben Weir, Tom Ladeau, Casey Mahoney, Jongwoo Beck, Cameron Ferrey, Ian Scura '19, Josh Chan '08, and Alex Jopek.



③ Suzy Pexton Bourque '70 and husband stopped by to see Jo Wayles '70 and husband while on a 40-day 40th anniversary road trip: Suzy and Jo. ④ Greg '87 and Amy Beckwith Lupica '87 ran into several alumni at the Provincetown Film Festival: Will Lupica '18, Jude Dry '09, Laura Ludwig '88, Andrew Peterson '87, Amy, and Greg. ⑤ Middlebury alumni met up for dinner at the Hôtel des Mille Collines in Kigali, Rwanda: Julia Paolillo '15, Karen Engler Bartlett '95, and Carl Hobert '83.

the Adirondack and Green Mountains! She was busy entertaining her Shanghai family (son Will and wife Elisabeth) when we communicated so promised more tidbits later. • **Ann Wadsworth Martin** (Ithaca, N.Y.) writes a really telling note in this tough time in our country on many levels. She and husband Peter have three children, of whom two are African American. She says, "I spend a lot of time provoking or supporting conversations about race." After retiring from a career with labor and management at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, she continues "as a community mediator and facilitator of tough and/or complicated situations." She and Peter live in Ithaca and have an apartment in Oakland, Calif., in order to be near their grandchildren. Ann is now also sporting a new knee. She recently enjoyed time with **Mary Robson** in Seattle at an African art exhibit. This quote from Ann resonates with many of us: "Overwhelmed with personal blessings, still I fear for our country." • We would love to see any of you that can come in June to our 55th reunion. It's a special time of the year in Middlebury and made even more special by reconnecting with people who have a shared lifetime of experience.

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Correspondent **Dori Ells Jurgenson** reports: This collection of news comes as PBS is airing the moving and informative 18-hour series detailing the Vietnam War. Many of us know one or several people who served there and some have mentioned it in their submissions. • When **Pam Nottage Mueller** wrote, she and Bill '65 were on their way out the door to participate in a Road Scholar trip to Croatia's Dalmatian Coast. "As you can surmise from this information, all is well with this 75 and counting classmate! Loving spouse—check, comfortable retirement—check, decent health—check, three kids doing well (most of the time)—check, four darling grandchildren reaching perfection—check! If only the U.S. and the world were not in such a perilous state. As I struggle to comprehend all that is being aired in Ken Burns' heart-wrenching and shocking series on Vietnam, I'm reminded of those in our class and generation who, because of their service to our country, either lost their lives or have been forced to struggle with their wartime memories for the past half century. (Remember **Mike Heaney**'s moving and unforgettable story shared during our 50th reunion weekend?) In the midst of our good fortune, let us never forget the sacrifices of our generation. And let us pray that today's leaders will do better by their actions for our children and grandchildren." We can all second that! • **Bill Kieffer** continues an active retirement—as he writes, "Jim and I spent most of last summer at our home in Maine, where the fruits of our labor with veggies and flowers were abundant. I had delicate eye surgery to repair an eyelid following a skin cancer removal; and had sinus surgery to clear out the infection there. I joined two advisory councils in Boston, one for MGH and the other for Partners Healthcare. Both are focused on representing patients and their families in all aspects of care, both inpatient and outpatient. We meet monthly with hospital senior staff, including many chiefs of medicine—fascinating and I'm learning so much! I'm still active with the Midd board as trustee emeritus. And finally, we have begun the process of thinking about downsizing in Boston. Anyone want any Victorian furniture?" A few days later, he sent an addendum, also still thinking about the war and the film: "I am sure most of our classmates, and others, watched the Vietnam series. Our classmate Mike Heaney was featured, telling about his experiences during his tour and his participation in the conflict. It was indeed moving. Also featured was Bob Gard, a former president of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey. I know Bob from my time spent on that board. Many of us served during those war years, many of us questioned why—the series clearly brought to light the many mistakes/errors made and the lack of transparency." • A short note from **John Vecchiolla** relates that he attended his 50th reunion from Boston University School of Law June 9–11. He says, "Peter Cady '63, **Bob Turran**, and the late **Bruce Allbee** were also members of the 1967 graduating class contingent." • **Ron Reese** continues a difficult journey, as he writes, "**Edith** (**Carlson**) is holding her own. She is confined to a wheelchair or bed. Her speech still is very severely affected by her multiple strokes. She communicates with her eyes and facial expressions for the most part. We're now over 1,000 days into this. It's a tough and exhausting trail we're on. We persevere." He writes occasional updates on Caringbridge and would no doubt welcome any shout-outs from Midd friends. • Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: We have learned that **Cal Leman** passed away in December 2016. We were notified of this by an acquaintance of his, Craig Raisig, who wrote, "Calvin and I attended Perkiomen School together. We owned an old 36-foot Alden cutter sailboat together in the early '70s. His last years were spent in Salmon, Idaho, where he encouraged reforesting. I believe that his death in Nevada was in hopes of returning to a woman he had married and divorced earlier. I spoke to her about his passing. She was glad that she could give him support during his final days. We Skyped in November 2015. He initiated the contact, explaining the move from Salmon; however, he did not mention his illness. Calvin was unique. He'll be missed." • **Bob Seeley**, one of the best sources of our classmates' comings and goings, passed on the following information from **Floyd Moreland**. Floyd noted, "I give to Middlebury every year, and I'm a member of the Gamaliel Painter Cane Society, so Midd is in my trust when I pass on. The College gave me the beginnings of a great career in higher education and also a practical business sense, which enabled me to build my businesses in later life on the Seaside Heights boardwalk. Last but not least, it instilled strength, which, as you can imagine, came in handy when Superstorm Sandy destroyed my home and most of my physical past. (I live in Ortley Beach, N.J., which still is struggling to come back.)" • Subsequently, I spoke with Floyd directly and reread his piece in our 50th reunion *Older Faces*. Floyd clearly comes across as a very caring and thoughtful individual. As can be gleaned from his *Older Faces* piece, he advanced the purpose and utility of classics through his creation of a program at Berkeley, where he earned his PhD, that covered some six semesters in, as he described it, "ten agonizing boot-camp weeks," which gave students the ability to read Vergil or Cicero or St. Augustine with relative ease. Not an insignificant accomplishment. He then brought this program to the East Coast by establishing a similar effort at CUNY. One regret Floyd mentioned was his retirement from education at age 55. To be clear, Floyd didn't just sit on the beach, though he likely did spend some time doing so. Rather, he resumed his dedication to the historical carousel at Seaside Heights, N.J., by restoring it and he also operated a retail establishment on the boardwalk there. As a testimony to his good work, the carousel was ultimately named after him. By the way, it survived Sandy and is still operating, though being considered for a possible change of venue.

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At this writing, autumn is folding down upon us after a long, and sometimes puzzling, summer. As we age, we search for what is meaningful, weeding out the distractions that become more immaterial and holding close the moments and memories that bind us. We continue to lose classmates and family we hold dear. Most recently, and with sadness, we report that Rick Mills '66, beloved husband of **Judy Sheldon Mills**, passed away suddenly in October, doing what he loved, hiking on an Adirondack trail. Judy and Rick were regular attendees at Alumni College and had been there this past summer. Several others of our classmates and spouses were at Bread Loaf in August attending the thought-provoking and enriching classes taught by College professors. There were Nancy and **Stan Kemmerer**, **Anne Battle** and husband Len Slater, Jay and **Nancy Smith**, Candy Thayer (widow of **Jerry Thayer**), **Andy Johnson Perham**, and **Polly Moore Walters**. Cy and **"T" Tall** joined us for dinner at Lake Dunmore the night before classes began. Several classmates gathered at the home of "T" and Cy later that weekend to celebrate "T"'s 75th birthday, assisted by their sons Jamie and Chris, as well as Carol Armstrong, wife of our former president, James Armstrong. Joining the Alumni College contingent were Kate Pond and **Fred Stetson**, Andrea Forrest and **Randy Brock**, Marv '64 and **Carol Haas Kelley**, Kathy and **Pete Holcombe**, Lynne and Steve Heidel '66, and many other Middlebury alums, professors, and administrative staff. • **Ellen Andersen Russo** has two accomplishments: a book and a photography show. Ellen's book of poetry, *Circle of the Sun*, came out in August through Troy Book Makers and has been warmly received. Her two-month-long show at the St. Francis Gallery in Lee, Mass., featuring a series of black and white photographs, was titled *Faces of Jim—Beyond Mental Illness and Addiction*. The opening reception was also well-received. • **Norm** and **Bonnie Trompeter Lowe** are ensconced in Capiliera, Spain, in the province of Granada, a small village perched high up in a river gorge, where they have goats in their backyard, mountain trails to hike, and friendly villagers as neighbors. Bonnie's lovely granddaughter Charlotte is following in Bonnie's footsteps, making her debut as a model beginning with a photo shoot in Milan. • News from **Carol Burr** is that she was elected to the California League of Women Voters and will be working on analyzing bills coming before the state legislature. She and husband Roger Lederer have been cruising as tourists from Budapest to Amsterdam and around Panama with Roger as the resident ornithologist. In the early fall, they spent a month touring the "stans"—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan. They updated and reprinted their local bird book, *The Birds of Bidwell Park*, and are working on a new book of the trees of Chico, with Roger as author and Carol as illustrator. Carol is happy to report that the Burr Family Scholarship she started in 1989 is in its 20th year of supporting first-generation students at Cal State Chico. • **Terry Granger** has come down from the mountains and is now living in Boulder, Colo.; he was surprised to find that his new home comes with (living) lawn ornaments—deer! Where there are deer, there are often large predatory cats; time to keep the small pets indoors. • **Peter Donavan** writes, "Libby and **Grant Matheke** drove up from Georgia to visit with Nancy and me in South Carolina. They had been getting their 41-foot Westerly ready for another winter of sailing the Caribbean. We are spending another lazy winter on Callawassie Island. All is well with our collective extended families, now living from coast to coast and in the UK." • Many others of our class are in a life of winter and summer migrations, in cottages, condos, time-shares, sailboats, RVs, and on bicycles, skis, motorcycles, and all sorts of modes of living. Keep in touch!

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We're sad to report that **Gary Bevington** passed away suddenly on July 6, 2017. **Glenn Govertsen** wrote us about his death: "Gary and I were almost neighbors here in Missoula, Mont., since he lived only about a mile away. We got together from time to time, although our lives didn't intersect that often. Gary's son, Doug, sent me an email requesting my assistance in locating an account that his dad had showed him—what he had written for the Middlebury 50th reunion yearbook. I found my yearbook and made copies of the page that Gary had written. Once again, the value of the yearbook to remember our classmates is clear. As we continue on, we appreciate the memories we have—both of the classmates we still have as well as those that have passed away." Here's a little more about Gary that we've adapted from the obituary that Doug wrote: "From the time Gary was a little boy, he displayed two characteristics that followed him through life." (Some of our classmates will remember him for these.) "The first was his impressive memory. Even as a child, his family would quiz him on any number of subjects and Gary would often have the answers. Gary's second trait was his profound love of learning languages. During high school, he managed to convince his Republican parents in Cold War-era Iowa to get him tutoring in Russian and Arabic. He would ultimately learn a total of 18 languages, with German as his favorite." Albanian became the subject of Gary's PhD studies at UMass Amherst. Later, during a family vacation to Mexico, "Gary developed an interest in the Mayan language of the native people in the Yucatan Peninsula. His language research led him to build a small cottage near the village of Coba, where he lived for part of each year for much of the rest of his life. He ultimately became one of the foremost experts in Yucatec Maya and published a book titled *Maya for Travelers and Students*." • We are happy to recap a bevy of lively notes from **Ginny Fox Mast**: "I've been retired for 17 years. I woke up one day and realized that, much as I loved my job at the Colorado School of Mines, I was burned out! About the same time, Larry retired from the Bureau of Reclamation in Wyoming. We've done a bunch of traveling since then. None of it glamorous, all of it with a pick-up camper or a fifth wheel or a travel trailer. And tents! Can't forget those. We've lived in Colorado, Alaska, and Nebraska since retiring and have worked (both paid and volunteer) for the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Alaska State Parks, Nebraska Game and Parks, Sioux County (Neb.) Historical Society, Ninilchik (Alaska) Senior Center, and the Longhorn Bar. We fish, usually in Colorado in the spring, and hunt elk in Colorado and deer here in Nebraska. Actually, everybody else hunts. I hike and camp with them. Or cook a lot of food when folks hunt here in Naponee, Neb." Ginny and Larry have three children, and their youngest grandchild is 17. Their son Seth and Jerry, his partner of 16 years, got married in August. The 2017 eclipse was total in nearby Kearney, so they made it a party. According to Ginny, "The eclipse was awesome! We had two old friends from my days at the Colorado School of Mines and the two grooms-to-be here. The eclipse was five days before the wedding in Boulder, Colo.—who needs bridal showers or, more appropriately, bachelor parties? Totality was so overwhelming that we got tears in our eyes and agreed that we'll meet again to watch it in 2024. Absolutely magical. Seth and Jerry's wedding came off as planned. They put on an event nearly as exciting as the eclipse. The 200+ people in attendance were unanimous: It was far and away the best wedding ever! Even Seth's 102-year-old grandmother agreed." Ginny is looking forward to the Midd women's Class of '66 mini-reunion in June this year! • "Our biggest news is that our fourth grandson was born June 25," writes **Kitty Grant Galaitsis**. "He is our daughter Stephanie and son-in-law Gregory Ely's first child. They wanted a name to reflect the baby's main ethnic backgrounds, so he is Perseus Tsiang Ely a.k.a. Perry. The family lives 20 minutes away in Somerville, Mass., which is a change from our son's family in Minneapolis. We got to see Perry right after he was born. We recently returned from what now is our yearly trip to Greece. We spent some time in the majestic Pindos mountains in Karpenisi and then Pertouli. The highlight of our trip was our time with Tony's high school classmates and spouses in Pelion, a peninsula near Volos, beloved by Greeks but not much visited by tourists. I have been visiting Greece now for 50 years! I'm not fluent but can get along reasonably well in the language. If anyone is planning a trip to Greece and wants some information, let me know. There are places to visit other than Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini, nice though they are!" • **Gordon McAleer** reports that **Don Snyder** visited him and his family for a couple of days at their home in Rockport, Maine. You can see a photo of Gordie and Don on our class's Facebook page (Middlebury College Class of 1966). Gordie writes of the photo, "We are on the Rockland Breakwater, proudly wearing our Midd reunion baseball caps given to all of the veterans in our class. Don was in the Navy after Middlebury and I was in the Army. We had a bet at graduation over the winner of the annual Army-Navy football game, one dollar for each winning bet. I was in the hole of about 15 bucks over the years. I settled the bet by treating him to Wassie's hotdogs, the best dogs in town. There is always next year for an Army upset. When he was with us, we put Don on the line at our family chocolate business, Bixby and Co. He was a quick apprentice learning the ropes and is welcome back anytime!" • You'll also see a photo of **Don** on our Facebook page. Don describes his annual triathlon for those of us unfamiliar with them: "I did a sprint-distance event—quarter-mile swim, 18-mile bike ride, then followed by a 5K run. And I might add that I finished first in the over-70 age group. It was great fun, and I feel fortunate that I can still do this type of activity." • While you're at our class's

① Adam Burns '99 got married on October 22, 2016, to Jenny Paul-Rappaport in Calistoga, Calif. Friends who joined the celebration included (all '99 unless noted) Catherine Herrick Levy '97, Rob Levy, Ann Russell Felton '01, the newlyweds, Eliz Mann, Yseult Tyler, (second row) Brendan O'Donohoe, Silas Marshall, John Felton, Mike DiMaria, Pete Steinberg, Andy Dixon, Sadie Carney '00, Rob Zoeller, Frank Wildermann, and Bill Coddington. ② Middlebury friends and their families enjoyed a fun beach barbecue: Karen Parks, Cameron Parks '98, Ryan Harter '98, Leslie Harter, Elizabeth Gerber '98, David Bailey, Diana Wiss Tebbe '98, Nelson Tebbe, Ashley Adams '98, and Ryan Skubic.

MIDDLEBURY
COLLEGE

③ Every year since Jason Fleischman '03.5 passed away in February 2004, family and friends have gathered in Vail, Colo., to celebrate and remember him: Heather Tory Dougherty '03.5 with Madeleine, Michael Kirkland '03.5, Tina Fleishman (mother) with grandson Sequoia, Frank Johnson (stepfather), (second row) Kevin Dougherty '03.5, Eva Jahn (sister-in-law), Sarah Bunnell '04 with Hannah, Kyle Smith (Sarah's husband), and Brett Fleishman (brother). ④ Liz Sutcliffe '10 married Mike Valentine on August 20, 2016, at American Flatbread Pizza at the Inn at Lareau Farm, Waitsfield, Vt. Middlebury alums who helped them celebrate include Joanna Mintzer '71, Nancy Charlesworth '71, Nancy Crawford '70, the newlyweds, Rachel Zakrasek '10, Lisa Eppich '10, Beth Connolly '10, and Gaby Shorr '10.

Facebook page, please take a look at a photo of a 51st reunion at the home of **Scott MacFadyen** in Lenox, Mass. **Paul Upson** writes, "A group of KDRs had so much fun at the 50th reunion that we decided to do it all over again. We gathered for two days and nights of talk with a little golf and a museum visit on the side. In addition to pondering our latest interactions with the greater medical community, many memories were recalled (and reconstructed), including thoughts of classmates that never made it past sophomore year. The bottom line: reunions are too much fun to let them stop happening!" KDRs who participated included **Didier Reymond**, **John Valby**, **Steve Buckley**, Gary Mitchell '68, and **Bob North**, as well as Scott and Paul. • Notes on your class correspondents' summer activities: **Prue** had a nice summer mini-reunion with **Kitty Galaitsis** on a lake in Michigan when Kitty and her husband, Tony, visited relatives in the area. **Francine** had the pleasure of chatting with **Glenn Govertsen** about life in Missoula, Mont., when she and her husband, Richard, and two friends stopped there overnight before flying east. The Pages and friends from Chicago had just spent a week in Glacier National Park celebrating their 50th wedding anniversaries. Glenn kept them posted on the fires and closures that occurred soon after their Montana adventures.

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The Wof67 2017 gathering was in Manchester, Vt., on three perfect Indian summer days in September. Many thanks to our local hostesses **Helen Martin Whyte** and **Nancy Boardman**, our food and sleep organizer **Kathie Towle Hession**, and our group emailer **Jana Mara Coffin**. We stayed in the most upscale barn imaginable with our own swimming pool, terrace, full kitchen, and beautifully appointed living room and dining room. We had comfortable walks and hikes each day in addition to a half day tour of Hildene, a visit to the Equinox Hotel to see where **Andy Avery** often plays and sings, and a drive up Equinox Mountain Toll Road for sweeping vistas and a visit to the Carthusian Monks Visitor Center on top. Following our extraordinary reunion in June, our sharing and discussions were some of the deepest and most gratifying we have ever had together. As well as those women mentioned above, **Cathie Clement**, **Gert Jones Como**, **Pat Hickcox**, **Freddie Mahlmann**, **Linda Morse**, **Sue Rugg Parmenter**, **Susie Davis Patterson**, **Judy Pierpont**, **Lee Powers Smith**, **Carlisle Wildeman**, and **Karen Unsworth** had a wonderful time together, and, as always, we are already starting to plan for 2018, perhaps on Cape Cod. Women of the class, check with one of us before planning trips next fall. We want and need you to be part of our gatherings! • Sadly, we must report the deaths of two of our classmates. **Carol Conklin Wheelock** died on October 19 and **Lane Mabbett** died on October 26. **Freddie Mahlmann** and **Karen Unsworth** attended a gathering on November 4 of family and friends in memory of Carol. Freddie reports that the celebration of Carol's life was held at the Fayston (Vt.) Elementary School, where the library was recently named in Carol's honor. "Carol had lived in Waitsfield, Vt., since 1977 and shared her knowledge of teaching, love of color and design, and quilting with friends and community members. At the gathering, her friends in fabric displayed several of her exquisite quilts. Carol had earned certification in the Professional Association of Appraisers—Quilts and Textiles. Carol faced her diagnosis of brain cancer with courage, determination, and humor. She attended our 50th reunion last June and shared those happy memories with all who visited her. She underwent nontraditional surgery and continued to live independently until several weeks before she died. She retained control over her life and died at the Vermont Respite House. Carol was an important member of the Women of '67, and her presence and unique perspective will be missed." • **Dave Tura** writes this about Lane: "I met Lane when I arrived at Tabor Academy as a sophomore in 1960. We were casual friends until we both (somehow) were accepted at Middlebury. Lane's hometown girlfriend was a freshman at the Univ. of Maine, Orono, in the fall of 1963, and he hitchhiked across three states to visit her on most weekends. Even had he been inclined to write a paper or attend a class on a Monday or a Friday, his 'travel schedule' pretty well ensured there would be academic trouble ahead. There was. Lane joined Chi Psi brothers **Ted Butler**, **Art Sleeper**, **John Brady**, and **John Perkins**, among others, in a sophomore-year departure from our class." We send our condolences to the families of Carol and Lane.

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REUNION CLASS **Kveta Gora Pierre** writes, "Greetings to my classmates of 1968! I will not be able to join you in June because I live in Paris, France. Here is a quick update of the last 50 years: After graduating from Middlebury, I went to Columbia's business school for an MBA. I also got married to François Pierre, whom I had met on my junior year abroad program in Paris. We are still married today and have three grown-up daughters, three sons-in-law, and seven grandchildren. Two daughters live in Paris, and one in New York City. We had a career in the corporate world for 18 years in Toronto and Paris and then started our businesses in Paris in the hotel and restaurant trade for 22 years, working together. Our marriage survived." • **Charlotte "Chickie" Sibley** reports, "My encore career is serving on boards of directors. I love board service—it's a different way to make a difference. One of my boards produces genetically engineered mice and rats for clinical trials. My nonprofit board work is as chair of Mendelssohn Club Chorus of Philadelphia, the largest volunteer chorus here in Philadelphia, and a frequent performer with the Philadelpha Orchestra." • **Linda Mason** reports, "Our big news is that my husband and I have moved to downtown Middlebury—in the Battell Block. We look forward to renewing old friendships and having Middlebury right out our front door." • **Chris Diamond** passes on this news: "It looks as though we won't make Reunion, so I'm feeling guilty enough to give this update for my classmates—it's been too long! I retired on June 30, 2015, after 43 years in the ski business. It all started at Killington, then Mount Snow in Vermont. For the last 19 years, we've been in Steamboat, Colo., where I served as resort president until my retirement. Our good governor, John Hickenlooper, declared June 30 Chris Diamond Day. It was a good day. I was ready. Since then, I've been doing some consulting, most recently for Sun Valley, but I don't intend to do so much that I can't ride my bike or ski as much as I want. We have a daughter, Elizabeth, married and living in Cambridge, Mass. Our son, Keenen '03, is married also. He works in Laguna Beach, Calif., where we visit a few months each year during our Colorado mud seasons. His wife, Mandy, had twins from a previous marriage, so we get the pleasure of being grandparents without the diaper part. I had the honor of being inducted recently into the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame. I'm serving on the board of the International Skiing History Assoc. (ISHA), where classmate **Peter Kirkpatrick** is helping to market and raise sponsorship opportunities for ISHA. Also keeping me busy is serving on the board of the local Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club. Wife Eileen and I are planning to stay in Steamboat, so if any classmates are in the area, please don't be bashful. We'd love to catch up!" • Lastly, **Ben Gregg** reports, "I attended Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC) at Bread Loaf at the end of October, and we had over 35 classmates there, meeting with President Laurie Patton, and planning for our 50th reunion this June 7–10. It was a great set of productive sessions, very energizing, and we discussed many options for our class activities—but if any classmates have additional ideas, please get in touch with the social chairs, **Terry Flahive** and **Shari Galligan Johnson**. After ALC, I stopped off and visited classmate (and my friend since fourth grade) **Sam Levin** and his wife, Pat, in Burlington. Sam has given up day-to-day operation of Blodgett Supply, so that he and Pat can spend some months this winter in Florida, and also have more time for international travel, plus that all-important travel within the U.S. to visit their sons, daughters-in-law, and GRANDCHILDREN!" • We are saddened to learn of the passing of **Jean Dithmar Myer** on December 19. A longer obituary will follow in our next column. • Correspondents **Ben** and **Betty** report that they are planning on passing along class correspondent duties after Reunion—Betty is passing off to **Gail Hyde**, and Ben hopes to find a volunteer (as he has been at this for about 30 years!). We also want to remind everyone to plan to return to Midd for our 50th, with our accommodations and class headquarters in Forest Hall and with a busy weekend still in the final planning stages. Please follow updates by joining the Class of 1968 Facebook group. And check out a photo on page 82 for an alumni trip.

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Twenty women of our class met in September on the Maine coast for two days of delicious food contributed by us all after essential organization by **Shirley Markland**, **Patricia Cross Anderson**, **Elizabeth Hitchner Kingston**, **Linda Colwell Bouffard**, and **Jackie Ogden English**. **Mary MacArthur Wendell** graciously hosted us with her beautiful, peaceful sea view. **Betsy Taylor** invited anyone interested to her lovely morning intro to Qigong on the dock. This year's intrepid travelers included **Wendy Cole** from Utah, **Sue Robb Weidner** from Arizona, **Kath Beisler Alfeld** from Colorado, **Ginny Hopper Hoverman** from Virginia, and **Amy Geiser Loether** from North Carolina. **Connie Coffin Carter** and **Pat Whitney Messler** came the shortest distance from elsewhere in Maine, while **Julie von Wettberg** drove up from New York, and the rest of us spent quite a few hours driving from elsewhere in New England: **Barbara Brennan Dooley**, **Julia Lord Soule**, **Marge Carran Shepardson**, **Dijit Tripp Taylor**, and myself (**Anne**). Wonderful conversations took place with the whole crew, and then in multiple recombinations of small groups while cooking, cleaning up, eating, walking, doing a jigsaw puzzle, driving to and from the event, etc., and are the highlights of the weekend. Our shared background seems to allow us to mull over the problems of the world, as well as the joys and sorrows of our own lives. Four "new" participants came this year, and we welcome any who are interested in the future! • **Sandra Sapp Dooley** and husband John were among a nine-person group that traveled to Cuba to attend Havana's International Jazz Festival last December. Their guide was a 25-year-old man about to graduate from the Univ. of Havana who informed them (two days into the trip) that he had applied for acceptance to attend Middlebury's Chinese Language School this past summer: Internet research led him to conclude Middlebury's program is the gold standard for learning Chinese fast. "I shared that I was a Middlebury alumna. A few days later, he read us his acceptance letter from Middlebury. This young man is smart, savvy, hardworking, personable and, also, poor. The group rallied to support him in achieving his goal, including asking Senator Leahy's staff to assist in his receiving a visa to come to the U.S. He attended the Chinese Language School and did very well. As John says, it takes a village to get a poor Cuban to Middlebury, but it's well worth it." • **Ralph Sexton** writes, "Most of you have left your children's college years behind, but I, being a late starter, am just beginning my last year. My wife, Valerie, and I have really enjoyed our children's lacrosse careers at Notre Dame these past five years, and we are in many ways sad that this will be our last. Rachel graduated in 2016 and John will graduate in 2018. We have traveled the country from coast to coast cheering and tailgating and enjoying every minute." • **David Speert** recently retired after working for 37 years at the Univ. of British Columbia. "My wife, Carol Stein, and I now live in Kittery Point, Maine, where I spend my time woodworking, building outdoor structures, gardening, traveling, and hauling lobster traps, a great change from a pretty sedentary life." • From the mountains of Idaho, **Shelley Folts Platt** wrote in September that winter was approaching, with the first snow on the hills. Things were wrapping up in the vegetable garden after a great season with lots of produce. The growing season is about 52 days so they were coaxing the last tomatoes into fruiting. Lots of canning and drying of pears and apples also took place. "During the winter months I keep occupied with quilting, spinning, and weaving. My husband and I are both very active with the local search and rescue group so the team transitioned this fall from hiking and UTVs to snowshoes and snowmobiles. Ours is a very quiet life!" • **Kathy Bustin Sims** retired last year after 38 years of academic medicine as a pediatric neurogeneticist clinician and researcher (Massachusetts General Hospital-MGH) and professor of neurology (Harvard). "My husband and I still have a townhouse on Beacon Hill but I am mostly in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont, helping with my second grandson and community efforts. I have finally taken an art studio and am returning to an old love—oil painting, as well as learning golf since old injuries prevent skiing and tennis, and enjoying a more relaxed, noncompetitive life. My second grandson lives with his parents in Brooklyn, N.Y., and I travel for beloved visits often. Husband Nat still works full time at MGH as an innovation specialist and is an avid pilot, starting a charter operation out of Newport, Vt." • **Tom Shreeve** is fully retired now, after a 45-year-long career as an intelligence officer, mostly with the CIA, and is living in Santa Fe, N.M. "My main activity, other than working on the house and the landscaping, is as an active member of the Santa Fe Search and Rescue Group. Within about an hour of this delightful city is genuine wilderness, and it's amazing how often people get lost in it. Most of our missions have a happy ending, though of course not all of them. During a recent mission, we were on a search for a lost backpacker in a remote area known as the Truchas Peaks, which is mostly on tribal land, and we worked closely with the tribal police. We found the backpacker after a nearly nine-hour search; he was okay other than the usual hunger and exhaustion." • **Connie Coffin Carter** writes, "I continue to direct Operation Breaking Stereotypes (OBS), the nonprofit that daughter Camden and I started 17 years ago. OBS facilitates short-term exchanges between students in Maine and New York City and since 2015 also between high schools and middle schools within Maine. Cohorts of 15–20 students from each school visit their partner's school, home, and community to connect across boundaries created by stereotypes and prejudices. The discoveries have been rich, the connections strong, and the possibilities for a more equitable and just world are extraordinary." Connie is also the education director for Americans Who Tell the Truth (AWTT). These portraits and narratives highlight citizens who courageously address issues of social, environmental, and economic fairness. "Although my work life keeps me very busy and inspired, my real inspiration comes from my five grandchildren—all under age four, keeping me young and forgetting about that new decade that I just entered!" • **Rob** and **Pam Pritchard Orchard** are enjoying their mostly retired life. Rob writes, "We're snowbird yo-yo's, traveling to and from Boston and Vero Beach, Fla., once each month in the winter. It's a great escape, but after two weeks I crave the metabolism and adventure of Boston. Son Chris '00 and wife Jess Szubart '00 live in London and daughter Kate '04 keeps us on our toes just a crow's quarter mile away. Last fall **Mary Wendell** and husband Ted co-chaired an event at which a fund was established to bring international work to the stages of ArtsEmerson (which I founded in 2010) and to put my name on the main stage of the Paramount Center in downtown Boston. It's a tad creepy because these honors usually come in memory of someone, so I feel a bit like a ghost in my own lobby."

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Doug Haneline sent us his happy news: "On September 9, Melissa Youngman and I were married where we first met, at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Grand Rapids, Mich. I was widowed in 2010, and after retiring from Ferris State in 2013, I moved to a condo in Grand Rapids, expecting to spend my retirement getting together with family, doing volunteer work, pursuing hobbies, and traveling. I did all those things but I also met a lady—divorced, somewhat younger than me, with a high-school-age son—with whom I fell in love. We decided that although life had bounced us both around some, we had come through our travails healthy, resilient, and optimistic—so much so that marrying and spending our lives together was the logical next step. Lots of changes; for example, my girls finished high school in 2003, but now once again I'm attending football games and marching band competitions. Melissa is a surgical tech at Helen DeVos Children's Hospital here in Grand Rapids. Just when you think you know what life has in store for you, something unexpected turns up. Embrace it!" • **Sidney Marsh Moon** and husband Doug Sprenkle took two Backroads, multisport adventure trips this year: one to Costa Rica in March with children and grandchildren and another to Iceland in July with friends. They continue to enjoy living in Steamboat Springs, Colo., where Sidney completed her Forest Service Wilderness Ranger certification over the summer. This fall she joined the board of Friends of Wilderness (FOW), a volunteer organization that helps the Forest Service maintain and patrol the wilderness areas near Steamboat. • **Jim Hand** reports: "I've been retired for over two years now and am having a great time. During the last few years Marilyn (Frison) '73 and I have enjoyed European ski trips with Dick '69 and Ann Einsiedler Crumb '71, Churchill '71 and Janet Halstead Franklin '72, **Ashley** and Louise Boyd **Cadwell** '71, and Brad and Bobbie Burchenal Landers '74 as well as a Middlebury sightseeing trip to China. This summer we celebrated the wedding of the last of our three children to marry in a wonderful weekend event in Starksboro, Vt. Jamie '08 and his wife, Anna, reside and work in San Francisco. Marilyn continues with her law practice in Manchester Ctr., Vt. I'm not having much luck getting her to talk of retiring. My days are filled with nonprofit board work, doing house construction for Habitat for Humanity in Bennington County, and developing and installing medium-sized solar pv systems in the surrounding area. We visit the Middlebury area regularly as our daughter, Kaelin '09, is married to Wil Mackey and they live in Cornwall. She and Wil have a very fun one-year-old boy, who is our second terrific grandchild." • **Anne Keiser** sent this note: "I spent a weekend at Middlebury attending an exquisite organ concert by Emory Fanning, celebrating his 50 years at Middlebury College. There were several 1970 classmates there, including **Dane Anderson** and **Carol Harden**. I'm probably leaving out someone but there were a number of returnees from surrounding classes as well. Mead Chapel was packed to the gills with alums and community people alike. The concert was followed by a reception where many people reminisced about their 'Emory' experiences! The campus looked gorgeous and it was wonderful to get a healthy dose of Vermont as well." • **Sue Ellen Thompson** wrote, "Your email reached us on our first day in sunny Athens, Greece. From there we headed to Crete for 10 days and Santorini for three. We were in our late 20s the last time we toured the Greek islands, but we've been promising ourselves ever since that we would return. **Stuart** (**Parnes**) has been retired for three years and we've been able to make two big trips a year, on top of

ARABIC SCHOOL

Sadly, **Michele Vickers Forman** ('97–99) passed away on August 28, 2017, in Salisbury, Vt. She taught World History at Middlebury Union High School for 29 years, where her classroom was a joyous jungle of giant plants, student art, maps, posters, provocative slogans, old couches, and new ideas. Recognizing that the Arab world has been misrepresented in the West, she worked to help her students appreciate the richness of Arab history and culture and introduced the study of the Arabic language to her students. An obituary appears in the back of this issue. • **Reginald Heefner** (MA '15, School of Hebrew '16–17) was recently appointed lecturer in Arabic, Chinese, and Hebrew at York College of Pennsylvania.

CHINESE SCHOOL

Brendan Mold (MA '16) began a new position in the fall as a Chinese teacher at St. Johnsbury (Vt.) Academy. He previously taught Chinese at Lyndon (Vt.) Institute and worked at Lyndon Town School as a translator and interpreter.

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Jean Szczypien (MA '62) has published *"Sailing towards Poland" with Joseph Conrad*. Analyzing the novels of Conrad, she unearths the cache of references from Polish literature and culture in his works, which enhances the intellectual and aesthetic appreciation of Conrad as an artist. The second part of the book looks at two of his autobiographical works. • **Alfredo Celedón Luján** (MA '87) has coauthored a book with his mother called *Counting Our Blessings*. Through research and interviews, the authors have compiled a history of the Sacred Heart Church, which overlooks the valley of Nambe, N.M. Alfredo is an educator in northern New Mexico, where he lives with wife **Amy Schroth** (MA '99) and three children. • **Terry Tiernan** (MA '88) writes, "Having taught at both the high school and college levels for 38 years, I recently retired from the Department of English and Communication at SUNY Potsdam in upstate New York." • **Dan Toomey** (MA '89) gave a talk at Landmark College this past fall called "The Mentorships of Robert Frost." He has taught writing and literature at Landmark College for 32 years. • Congratulations to **Dan Sharkovitz** (MA '90), who won the Robert Baram Award, given by the New England Scholastic Press Assoc. Chair of the English Dept. at Martha's Vineyard (Mass.) Regional High School, he has been the advisor for 25 years of the *High School View*, a weekly publication put out by students for the *Martha's Vineyard Times*. • **Marcella Pixley** (MA '00) has published a new novel called *Ready to Fall* about a teenaged boy who must find hope and a fresh start after the loss of his mother. Her poetry has appeared in literary journals such as *Prairie Schooner* and *Feminist Studies* and she is the author of two previous novels for teens, *Freak* and *Without Tess*. She lives in an antique farmhouse with her husband and two sons. • **Peter Horn** (MA '03) continues to produce his podcast, *Point of Learning*. His August edition was recorded at Bread Loaf with a panel of students and even featured a soundtrack by **Mark Wright** (MA '89), who returns to Vermont each August to play Commencement. • The board of trustees of the Louise S. McGehee School in New Orleans, La., recently announced that they have hired **Kimberly Field-Marvin** (MA '08) as the new head of school effective July 1. • **Kenny Yim** (MA '16) published a short story called "The Swimmer" in the October issue of ezine Pif Magazine. He works as a library page at Brookline (Mass.) Public Library.

BETTY ASHBURY JONES MA '86 SCHOOL OF FRENCH

This past fall **Antoine Albert** ('09–10, '12–14) began at Georgetown Law Center as a Global Law Scholar. Only roughly 5 percent of an incoming class is chosen for the GLS program, based on three criteria: a student's unusual or extensive international experience; fluency in at least one other world language; and willingness to pursue translational legal issues.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

Amy Bizzarri (MA '96) has published *111 Places in Chicago That You Must Not Miss*, which adds to her publications about the city that include *Discovering Vintage Chicago: A Guide to the City's Timeless Shops, Bars, Delis & More*, and *Iconic Chicago Dishes, Drinks, and Desserts*. She teaches Italian and English as a second language at Schurz High School in Chicago. • **Aran Donovan** (MA '12) was part of a women's workshop group that performed readings at Room 220, Antenna Gallery, in New Orleans, La. Her writing has appeared in *Barrow Street*, *CutBank*, *Rattle*, *New Ohio Review*, and *New Orleans Review*, and has earned her *Phoebe Journal's* Greg Grummer Poetry Award and a spot in *Best New Poets 2013*.

MIDDLEBURY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT MONTEREY

Elayne Whyte Gomez (MAIPS '93), ambassador, plenipotentiary, and permanent representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, presided over the successful negotiation at the UN of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and facilitated the adoption of the landmark agreement by a vote of 122 nations in favor, one against, and one abstaining. • **Clint Watts** (MAIPS '05) serves as the Robert A. Fox Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute. He is an Army veteran who has served as an FBI special agent on a Joint Terrorism Task Force and as the executive officer of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. Last March he appeared before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to testify that the Russian regime has in many respects taken the old Soviet active measures strategy and tactics and applied them to the digital age, including in attempts to disrupt the political process in the U.S. He says the Russians have used the tactics in connection with other elections as well. "The main goal is to undermine democracy and erode confidence in institutions in the West. Russian security interests are to break up and weaken alliances that challenge their foreign policy." • Four graduates of the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program were chosen to serve as English Language Fellows (ELF) for the State Dept. for the 2017–2018 school year. The ELF program promotes English language learning around the world. The four alums representing the Institute are Assistant Professor **Kelley Calvert** (MATESOL PCMI '06), who is teaching in Thailand; **Emily Durst** (MATESOL '15), who is teaching in South Africa; **Reilly Knop** (MATESOL '16), who is teaching in Niger; and **Susan Spano** (MATESOL '17), who is teaching in Rwanda.

SPANISH SCHOOL

After instructing at various universities, **John Miller** (DML '70) spent 20 years as department chair of languages and cultures at the Univ. of Colorado, retiring in 2005. After his retirement, he spent two years under the State Dept.'s sponsorship in India at Ahmedabad Management Institute and Aligarh Muslim Univ., teaching English as a second language. He then worked three years in Turkey at universities in Konya and Gaziantep, teaching ESL and American literature and culture. In 2017 he moved to Cape Coral, Fla., with his husband of 36 years, Robert Bixler. • **Joaquín Rodríguez-Barberá** (MA '72) writes that the scholarly magazine *Hispanófila* recently published his article, "La colaboración de Lope de Vega and Agustín Castellanos en 'Mientras yo podo las viñas.'" In the article he presents and studies the unique manuscript of the 1610 play, which contains a great amount of Lope de Vega's handwritten additions and corrections to his friend's original work. A native of Valencia, Joaquín spends summers in his residence there, close to family and friends, enjoying paella and the mild Mediterranean climate. He has kept his interest in language and literature and he is still living in Texas, where two of his children also live. • **Laurent "Larry" Boetsch** (MA '76, DML '81) retired recently after 40 years as a professor of romance languages at Washington and Lee Univ. He also served in senior administrative posts as director of international education, vice president for academic affairs, provost, and acting president. Currently he serves as a founding executive director of the European Consortium of Liberal Arts and Sciences (ECOLAS), an organization that works toward the advancement of the liberal arts and sciences within the European Higher Education Area. He and wife Elizabeth continue to live in Lexington, Va. • **George Henson** (MA '87) has translated a trilogy of books by Mexico's greatest and most influential living author, Sergio Pitol: *The Art of Flight*, *The Journey*, and *The Magician of Vienna*. • **Erin Mikulec** (MA '98) is an associate professor in the School of Teaching and Learning at Illinois State Univ. in Normal, Ill. She gave an interactive workshop at the Akita Chapter of the Japan Assoc. for Language Teaching called "Cartoon Creations: Facilitating Creative Language in the English Classroom," while serving as a visiting professor at Akita International Univ. • This past fall **Regina Galasso** (MA '02), an assistant professor of Spanish and Portuguese at the Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, was given the added duties of director of the Translation Center on campus. She is the author of the forthcoming book *Translating New York: The City's Languages in Iberian Literatures*.

our five annual trips to our little house in Hancock, Vt. Doesn't leave us much time to be at home (in Oxford, Md.), but our goal is to keep moving while we are able. Love seeing all of our classmates' travels on Facebook!" • **Nancy Crawford** was delighted that her daughter, Liz Sutcliffe '10, married Michael Valentine on August 20, 2016. They were married at the Inn at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield, Vt. Peg Martin, a longtime friend and wife of Prof. Sandy Martin, was the justice of the peace. Check out page 72 for a photo of Midd alums, old and young! Liz and Mike are living in Portland, Maine, where Liz is a nurse practitioner in adult medicine and Mike is a physician's assistant in neurosurgery at Maine Medical. "It's wonderful to have them close to Exeter, N.H.!" • **Beth Prasse Seeley** reports: "I can't believe it's already four years since Rich and I became full-time residents of Silverthorne, Colo.! We love the active lifestyle of skiing, hiking, and biking in the Rockies. We've also become immersed in community activities. I joined the board of our local live professional theater, the Lake Dillon Theatre Company, just in time to celebrate the grand opening of our brand-new $9 million Silverthorne Performing Arts Center. I also sing with the Summit Choral Society. In June we were delighted to host a reunion of my post-college Boston roommates, including **Joyce Snyder Rappaport**. Rich serves on the board of the Summit County Arts Council, and shows/sells his beautiful wildlife photography at the Arts Alive Gallery in Breckenridge. This past August we took a three-week trip to Norway—visiting Oslo, Bergen, the fjords, and Tromsø. From there we continued to the FAR north—to Svalbard, an archipelago northeast of Norway's mainland, halfway between the Arctic Circle and the North Pole. Rich was able to photograph polar bears, arctic foxes, walruses, seals, puffins, and other wildlife of the Arctic. The sun never set the entire time we were there! Check one more adventure off the bucket list! Next: Tanzania in February." • **Kathy Wardwell Roser** sent this update: "I spent most of the summer back East, seeing family and doing a little (very little) work. It was a good trip, but also good to get home and enjoy the mountains. Hiking and skiing have been painful of late, however, so I had a knee replacement in September. I'm not thrilled about the old age thing, but at least we can get new parts! Hopefully, this will be a permanent fix—I plan to be skiing this winter." • Check out page 69 for a mini-reunion photo!

—Class Correspondents: Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com); Nancy Crawford (ncrawford_sutcliffe@comcast.net).

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Collecting notes here in September 2017 for this column, we are reminded that it is 50 years since we arrived at Middlebury College as freshmen. We wondered how many remember the anonymously mailed letter that appeared in the mailboxes of all freshman women during that first week. It was a brave and caring look at birth control and other not-talked-about issues, and back then its honesty and clarity were a shock, a breath of fresh air, a thought-provoking presentation, and more to different women—but definitely a "Dorothy, you're not in Kansas anymore" kind of moment. Some of us read it together at our 45th reunion. Predictably, we became curious about the identity of the author and the challenging logistics of writing, printing, and distributing this document. We wondered if anyone knows who the author was, and whether she might be willing to be found and to discuss her remarkable letter with us, perhaps at our 50th reunion in 2021, or to be interviewed anonymously, or to send us another letter! The letter was the subject of the lead story in the first issue of the *Campus* that fall (archive.org/details/middleburyNewspapers_1967-09-28). Now, a half-century later, it's a time capsule from another era in our lives. If you'd like a digital copy of the letter or if you have any information about the author, please email **Carolyn Ungberg Olivier** at her address below. • Now, on with the news. **Susan Fritsch Hunter** reports: "I spent a wonderful weekend in Vermont in early October attending the concert celebrating Emory Fanning's 50 years at Middlebury College. Emory played organ pieces by J. S. Bach, César Franck, and other composers, and his wife, pianist **Diana Egbers Fanning**, joined him to perform Franck's Prelude, Fugue and Variation, op. 18. It was a wonderful concert and good to see others from our class at the event. **Cyndy Bronson Altman** hosted me and **Anne Lahey Kehl** at her Ripton house, and we were able to fit in a hike along the Middlebury River near the Bread Loaf campus. I continue to write on a freelance basis for weekly newspapers in western Connecticut, and I was fortunate to attend the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in 2016 as a general contributor in poetry. Husband Bill and I plan to move to Massachusetts within the next year to be closer to daughter Lauren, her husband, Ryan, and our 21-month-old grandson, Cameron." • **Nancy Savage** writes from Ottawa, "I'm no longer doing law or adjudication, having retired from that some time ago. I have done some ESL training and teaching recently, as to me it is vitally important that we give our immigrants the best start possible if they are going to prosper in Canada—and it's both fascinating and rewarding. We have also been doing a lot of traveling and I really love that. I do a lot of singing and was disappointed that I was unable to attend Emory Fanning's organ recital in October. Best and most time consuming of all, we have six grandchildren under 10! We had 12 people around the table for Thanksgiving, all of whom were immediate family. It's a bit crazy. Anyway, I hope to get to our next reunion if I'm still, you know, functioning." • **Steve Caldwell** and wife Susan checked in from Vashon Island, Wash. "We had a great time eating, talking, and laughing for two weeks when **Francie Marbury** and **Brent Seabrook** visited in September." Their time together started with a boat and bike trip to the San Juan Islands. Then, back on Vashon Island, they connected with **David Leland,** who drove north (with guitar) from Sonoma, Calif., for a long weekend. They all visited with **Tom Scribner** on his houseboat and enjoyed a sailboat lunch on Lake Union. Later that day, they had a lovely dinner with Jane Stallard Shubin '72 and husband Greg at their home in Bellevue. David led a trip to the Hama Hama Oyster Saloon, part of the Robbins' oyster farm where they took a tour with Lissa James '04, daughter of **Helena Robbins James**, followed by an overnight on the Hood Canal. Brent, Francie, Steve, and Susan continued on to Olympic National Park where they hiked along the Elwha River to dam removal sites and visited the Sol Duc Hot Springs. Steve, meanwhile, continues his gorgeous woodturning artwork (vashonwoodart.com).

—Class Correspondents: Gail Cross Giebink (ggiebink@austin.utexas.edu); Carolyn Ungberg Olivier (carolyn.olivier@gmail.com); Rob Waters (robwaters7012@mindspring.com).

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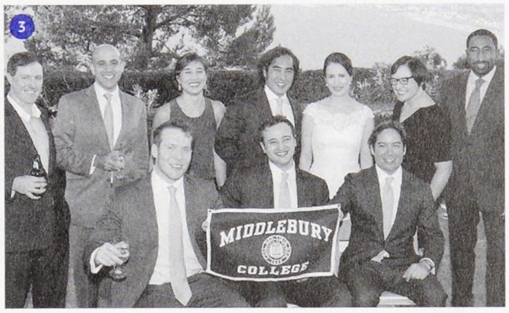
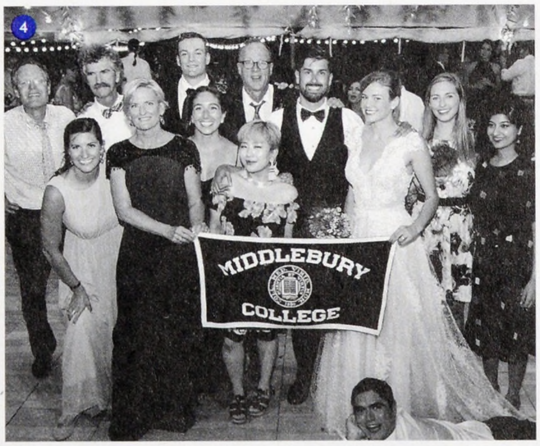
Rich Prario writes, "After 20 years, the restoration of my 1820, Federal-period house is just about complete here in rural, historic Hampton, Conn. The project was featured in the December 2017 issue of *Early American Life* magazine. The house was built by Dr. John Brewster, a sixth-generation Mayflower descendant. During its history it has been home to an author, an artist, a runaway slave, an innkeeper, milliners, and doctors, as well as a lawyer, a farmer, and a schoolteacher (that's me). If anyone is interested in architecture and early American interiors, please email me at prentis@mindspring.com and stop by for a visit. If you'd like to read the article, you can buy a copy of the December issue at www.ealonline.com/subscriptions/issues.php." • **Tom McGrath** writes, "I have never considered myself a bucket-list kind of a guy—well, except for the Grand Canyon. When the National Park Service (NPS) first required permits in 1983, I applied. My lottery number came up for 1984. However, I had to take a pass on this long-dreamed-of river adventure on the Colorado. I had accepted an assignment at the NPS Maritime Museum in San Francisco, so I moved from Denver and forfeited my permit. I sold my Avon raft; my Ed Abbey-induced river running days were done. This past January, my wife announced she was summering in Martha's Vineyard. Now was the moment to seize this bucket-list opportunity. I queried our teenage sons: a week in Bermuda or river rafting the Grand with Dad? I made reservations for a nine-day all-paddle trip for July. There was no getting around the trip opener, a 7.8-mile hike down Bright Angel Trail. This past fall I had rehabbed from my fourth total-joint replacement: two knees and both shoulders. What was I thinking? Biking over 2,000 miles from winter into late spring fooled me into believing I was somehow ready for the downhill hike of my life; I wasn't. After 10 grueling hours, two broken

hiking poles, scraped knees, the moral support of my entourage of sons with another suffering guest and two shepherding river guides, we all arrived at the river put-in. This was the hardest day of my life, not ever to be repeated. Paddling 150 river miles through the biggest white water in North America was both a thrill and a blur, except for my unexpected launch and swim at Specter Rapid. I do distinctly recall being hauled back into the raft like a huge net full of codfish. Joint pain, sleeping on the ground, never-ending paddling into the wind, all has melded in my memory with the adrenaline highs of the rapids and near-drowning. Seeing my sons rise to the challenge of every rapid and hike made for great vacation fun in one of America's wildest and most scenic treasures. The boys and I shared the adventure of a lifetime. I now fully realize that it's not my age that counts, it's the mileage. My river miles have come to an end. Next summer if I get that bucket-list urge, I'm taking the ferry to Martha's Vineyard."
—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Hamlin Church (jhchurch@sienaheights.edu); Evey Zmudsky LaMont (eveylamont@primetimetransition.com).

73 **REUNION CLASS** We are saddened to learn of the deaths of our classmates, **Stephen Goodhue** and **Stefan Graef**, who died in May and June, and **Rick Hayes**, who died October 5. Our sympathies are extended to their families and friends. We're reminded how important it is to keep in touch with longtime friends and we're fortunate to have classmates who do so. One is our faithful Florida correspondent **Joe Bergin**, who's connected with **Vikki Nicolson Henderson**, **Gene Hill**, **Dean Nikitas**, **Terry Sweeney**, and **Randy Volkert**, who was Joe's roommate for six months before he left college to join the Air Force. Joe was best man at his wedding many years later. "Middlebury friendships can surely last a lifetime." Joe is coming out with a book, *Tricky Love Poems*, which is a life work including some poems written at Middlebury. Another self-published book will follow, *Summer Motifs: From Venice to Vermont*. His writings are filled with vivid descriptions of places visited during summers on Lake Champlain and other locales. • **Stephanie Blankenship Herrell** writes, "Retirement has been really good for us. It's wonderful to have time for those things neglected while one is career focused. My husband, Glenn, and I are golfers and enjoy playing the local courses and taking vacations near great golf courses. The Big Island of Hawaii is one of our favorites. We have many grandchildren: eight boys and three girls—all here in California—whom we see regularly. My organ concert was a defining event for me at Middlebury and a memory I hold dear. I did so appreciate the audience's enthusiasm. Now I'm more a supporter of the arts than an artist, but I love hearing about my friends' artistic accomplishments. Re politics: I enjoyed reading Matt Dickinson's article in *Middlebury Magazine* (winter 2017). It's interesting to



① In Rectortown, Va., Ben Hanna '08 married Theo Higginson on October 3, 2015, with many Midd friends helping to celebrate: (all '08 unless noted) Anna Steim, MA English '15, Tina Drake, Elke Ostler Hanna '74, the newlyweds, Kim Head '74, Mallory Hicks Walker, Maddy Boston '13, (second row) Amy Beck Harris, Matt Boucher, Georgia Hoffman Bambrick, Dave Campbell, Audrey Nelson, Drew Walker, Marnie Rowe Potish, Laura Lee Mittelman, Andy Mittelman, (third row) Andrew Harris, Blake Nguyen, John Bambrick, Ben Ostro, Patrick Cunningham, Rob Potish, Joel Simpson, and Patch Culbertson. ② David Hild '11 married Ali Bathgate in Vail, Colo., on September 4, 2016. Middlebury friends who helped the couple (in front) celebrate included (all '11 unless noted) Ryan Deane, Kait Surdoval '12, Dave Reed, Heather Karpas '12, Cary Palmisano '12, Nick Stevens, Sam Palmisano, Tessa Howard '14, (second row) Alex Giammarco, Will Simpson '07, Drew Chambers '08, Luke Cunningham, and Stew Kerr '13. Missing from photo: Katie Remington '10 and Jeff Begin '10. ③ Yoshi Komada '03 and Michelle Morris were married on October 2, 2015, at the La Venta Inn in Palos Verdes Estates, Calif. Middlebury friends who attended included (all '03 unless noted) Kyle Pilkington, Hosam Mekdad, Alex Lorido, (second row) Dan Shea '04, Said Nashashibi '05, Emmy Komada '07, the newlyweds, Lisa Jasinski, and Felipe Colon.



④ On September 10, 2016, on a perfectly foggy afternoon, Mary-Cait Hentz '10 married Daniel Baxter at her parents' home in Nantucket, Mass. Friends and family who helped them celebrate included Mario Guevara '10 (on floor), Taylor Brown '11, Kathryn Iacocca Hentz '81, Briehan Burke '13, Hae-Song Jung '12, (second row) Zander Grant '80, William Burke '73, Parker Hentz '16, Ned Hentz '80, the newlyweds, Laura Kasprzyk '10, and Simran Bhalla '11. Missing from photo: Carol Carlton Hentz Spooner '50. ⑤ Friends from the Class of 2000 joined Maya Paul for her 40th birthday: Laura Mendelson (Dave's wife) with Ella, Dave Mendelson with Laina, Maya, Jen LaBrecque, and Michelle Ruth Frindell.

hear what people think outside California and the Bay Area. Other than that, I try to stay out of politics." • The grand August 2017 solar eclipse generated some vivid reports. **Kathy Wilson** had an exceptional cloud-free view from Nashville's Centennial Park, which features a full-size replica of the Parthenon constructed by the city for the 1897 Exposition. "The changes in the lighting, darkening from golden hour vividness to a deep rose-purple, random stars briefly appearing, hints of light remaining around the horizon, a sudden breeze and drop in air temperature, the uptick of sounds from nearby insects and birds confused by the daytime darkness, visual effects like Bailey's Beads, the Diamond Ring (spectacular!), and a multitude of crescent sun shadows through the leaves all added up to a sensory experience not quite like any other. Adding to the overall surrealism (and proving that the technology was as confused as the insects), the lights illuminating the columns of the Parthenon turned on temporarily during totality. Can't wait for 2024!" • **Sage Russell**, **Lance Collister**, and **Peter Goodwin** all met up in Wyoming for the eclipse, by design or fate. **Sage** introduced her story when she wrote, "I retired in August 2016 after 20 years at the American Association for the Advancement of Science, most recently as associate director of the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowships. Although I'm still finding my way in retirement, the extra time for sleep, exercise, friends, family, and my old favorite, reading, has been a great gift. There has even been time for a few adventures along the way, including a week in Montana and Wyoming, visiting **Lance Collister** and wife Karen. The trip was organized around the solar eclipse, which was as spectacular as advertised. Not trusting our chances on the cloudy East Coast, husband Jeff and I went west, to Missoula, where Lance and Karen live, and Wyoming, where we traveled for maximum viewing. As an added bonus, we ran into **Peter Goodwin** and wife Susan, who were also in Jackson Hole, visiting their son and timing their visit for maximum impact." **Peter** added that they were debating where to watch the eclipse: "There were dire warnings of traffic problems and we elected to watch it within bicycling distance. Off we went to a gravel bar on the Snake River—me, my wife, our son, and his girlfriend. It was about a four-mile ride and easy, no traffic problems. Unlike many who watched the eclipse with lots of people, the gravel bar was sparsely populated. We could see the horizon to the north (the Tetons) and south. We knew that the temperature would drop so we took coats and a few minutes before totality, put them on. A minute or so before totality, the light was very eerie. It was bright enough to see colors but also dim, except at the horizons. It was a great show. I took some pictures through my telephoto lens, which gave me a more up-close view. At the same time, the planets beside the sun were a bonus. After totality, we stayed around the gravel bar for a little while but headed home as the moon left the sun." Afterwards they caught a bit of the hype in Jackson Hole with T-shirts and crescent-shaped eclipse cookies. **Lance** posted some amazing pictures on our class Facebook page. He shared that this was his second Middlebury-contingent solar eclipse as he had driven up to the Gaspé Peninsula in the summer of '72 with **Bruce Lauterwasser** and physics professor Frank Winkler. Lance was embarking on another huge adventure: "We are off to Australia in a couple days to bounce radio signals off the moon from two very rare islands (at least for 50 Mhz ham radio operators!). I'll be setting up on Cocos/Keeling Island and then also on Christmas Island, both in the Indian Ocean northwest of Perth, Australia. Hopefully, the famous annual crab migration on Christmas Island will not interfere with me getting up to the remote location where I'll be operating my moon-bounce station! I'll be posting more information on my Web page." You can find Lance's website on our class Facebook page. • Maybe more classmates will travel to the next location of the solar eclipse in the U.S. in 2024; there will be totality in Vermont! But you don't have to wait that long for a get-together with fellow classmates—our 45th reunion is right around the corner. We hope everyone is planning on it! • Meanwhile, check out a photo with some classmates in it on page 80.

—Class Correspondents: Lisa Donati Mayer (ldmayer@aol.com); Lindy Osterland Sargent (davelindysarg@gmail.com).

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From Minnesota, **Nat** and **Stacie Brown Forbes** report they remarried in 2015 and are now living in a home in St. Paul's historic Cathedral Hill purchased in 1995 before a move to Singapore. According to Nat, "I adored living in Singapore, but I'd applied for and been denied permanent residency in 2012, as the government there, as in other countries, swam against a tide of local resentment over foreigners in their country. I was already winding down the consulting practice of Forbes Calamity Prevention. I reluctantly accepted what many expatriate friends learned before I did, that living outside my home country was temporary—at 19 years, perhaps a bit less temporary for me than for others. Sure I miss Asia. I do not miss the endless struggle to win new consulting clients, so I don't do that anymore. My clients did agree to retain me through 2016. Instead, I now teach #PERSUADE!, a course I created for presenters. I run daylong Rush Hour table-top exercises in Singapore with a friend. I deliver presentations a few times a year and I wish I made more time to write, the activity I most love. Stacie retired last year from teaching in the St. Paul public school system. Years of prep work at 4:00 a.m.—doing things like cutting paper shapes for 80 first graders who can't yet use scissors, for example, finally wore her down. She still teaches summers at the Friends School of Minnesota because she enjoys the children and being around the FSM staff. In addition, she devotes much of her time to sewing bags and making jewelry for her Heartfactory label. And, just recently, we became first-time grandparents." • **Michael Tolkin** has had a new novel published. *NK3* is about Los Angeles four years after a North Korean weapon has wiped out everyone's memories. A new society has formed with an aristocracy living in a perpetual orgy inside a fenced compound. The stability of the society is threatened when a man comes into the city, looking for a wife he doesn't remember and wouldn't recognize. Michael adds, "Since my last class note news, I cocreated and produced a limited series for Showtime based on the June 2015 escape from the Clinton Correctional Prison in Dannemora, N.Y., starring Benicio Del Toro, Patricia Arquette, and Paul Dano, and directed by Ben Stiller. I recently attended Burning Man, the arts festival in the desert north of Reno, my sixth in eight years. Wendy Mogul '73 joined me for the third time, along with our adult daughters. I have a few other projects that look promising, but it's premature to announce anything. I'm not sure about another book yet." • **Paula Willis Therrien** writes, "After Middlebury and the URI Grad School of Oceanography, I embarked on a 33-year career as an analytical chemist and environmental scientist for the state of Rhode Island. My sons Christian (36) and Matthew (33) are both Johns Hopkins grads who followed my husband, Bob, into computer careers. They both live and work in nearby Massachusetts. While I always loved my job, I decided to retire five years ago to spend quality time with my aging mom. She's 90 and in her own home, and I see her every day. We do fun things together and laugh a lot. These years have been a blessing for both of us. I babysit at least once a week for my darling grandsons, Ethan (5) and Owen (2). And **Vivienne Longo Trebino** and I get together every few months to catch up and have fun."

—Class Correspondents: Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net); Steve Trebino (stevetrebino@gmail.com).

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Nan Rochelle McNicholas writes, "I'm thrilled to be working at Connection (formerly PC Connection). We're a Tier 1 tech solutions provider. You, my classmates, are retiring in large part, but I LOVE working! I'm surprised by how much room I still have in my brain for the systems and material I'm gulping down. Great, fun company. My son, Patrick, was married in August at Lake Winnipesaukee in New Hampshire to the woman of his and my dreams. It took six hours for him to lose his ring, swimming in the cold water. Then it took him two days to land in the hospital with appendicitis. Since he finally graduated from his program at Harvard in early August, and his insurance expired simultaneously, it was a bit of a nail-biter to get onto his new wife's policy. **Kari Sides Suva** came to the wedding, too. Then I joined her in Damariscotta, Maine, to visit her homes there, the one on a wooded lot, and the one that floats!" • **Bob Hamilton** reports, "All is good here in Easton, Pa. I'm getting ready to retire from 3M this spring and relax from the corporate world. My new vocation will be traveling as much as possible. Our sons are in Baltimore with grandson Jack just entering the terrible twos and granddaughter Hunter on the way. Wife **Jill (Sutherland)** provides guidance when needed. Our daughter is in South Africa and will be getting married next year and we look forward to the wedding in Cape Town. My comments on the Middlebury escapades are social evolution takes some twists and turns. Stand tall when needed, true to your beliefs and hang in there. This too will pass." • **Linda Saarnijoki** writes, "My husband and I retired in June 2016 from our 40-year careers as teachers and administrators at Taft School in Connecticut, and we retired to Weston, Vt., where we've enjoyed the quiet and the freedom that retirement brings. Other big events of the year have included the graduation of our daughter from college in June 2017 and her selection by Teach for America for a two-year stint teaching in Colorado. We've enjoyed some traveling and visiting friends, but have also loved just watching what the days and the seasons have brought to this beautiful corner of the world. There's a beauty here in Vermont that I never fully appreciated while slogging through the snow to classes at Midd." • Here is an update on **Mary Ann Gustafson King**'s generous underwriting of Prof. John Hunisak's tour of the must-see Broad Museum in L.A. Class of '75 with friends/family are invited for a class tour the weekend of March 31. Midd will handle the evites. **Susan Moore Harmon** in L.A. is answering organizers' Broad questions. • **David Perlman** writes, "My twin sons are Midd juniors while my daughter graduated in 2012. My wife and I have attended Alumni College and have been cheering at cross-country and track meets. That Middlebury is a source of family continuity and connection has been a joy." Because David has close contact with Midd through his twins, he was asked to comment on the Charles Murray incident. "I'm not sure what to say, if anything. There's been so much ink spilled on the Murray event already, more recently by outsiders who lack sufficient facts and understanding and who simply co-opt Middlebury as a rhetorical poster child for the idea of liberal intolerance. I believe the incident generated a healing process and opened up a positive dialogue that wouldn't have otherwise occurred. The event and the media fallout—perpetuated by writers who can't resist a convenient, stock example—can easily become a distraction. (That it's the subject of this alumni column is evidence of its being a distraction.) As a parent of two current students, I see it as a blip. My view is of the College continuing to function day after day, as a mecca for devoted teachers; enthusiastic, engaged students; original, creative, interdisciplinary thinkers; and spirited, committed athletes. It's a vibrant, electric web of connections, encompassing more than just the students and professors, blessed with extraordinary facilities, reaching into the surrounding valley and the overshadowing mountains and absorbing their influence, as well. As a parent, I can say I've had the good fortune not to be distracted." • **Kathy Smith Ward** writes, "For those classmates who declined to contribute to *Middlebury Magazine* as a result of Midd's handling of the Murray incident, we agree that we are all watching how different schools deal with protest today. I was impressed with Yale Law School's ability to peacefully bring Dr. Murray twice to its campus in recent years. Students and faculty engaged with him, but students held a separate event to protest and discuss the implications of his work. He was allowed to speak without interruption. *Time* reports this law school emphasizes the difference between righteousness and self-righteousness." • **Malou Flato** reports, "After all these years I'm still making art. I've never forgotten what I learned from Cap Potter and Michele and Dick Forman in the costume/set shops at Wright Theatre! I'm in Pray, Mont., for the next year with my husband John Taliaferro, a writer. My next show will be in Dallas in November 2018 at the Valley House Gallery. I would love to see friends." • Check out a mini-reunion photo that **Dick Gordon** sent in on page 65.

—Class Correspondents: Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com); Kathy Smith Ward (katherinesward@msn.com).

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The Class of '76 was too quiet this time around, and no news was received for this issue. Please drop us a line to let us know about your job, family, travels, hobbies, faith, worries, joys, or Midd memories. The next deadline is April 1 for the summer issue. • Meanwhile, check out the photo of Midd alums who attended the memorial service for **Ben Stone** on page 65.

—Class Correspondents: Sue Lewellen LeFeber (lefeber@att.net); Delia Walch Mohlie (mohlie295@yahoo.com).

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Sally Nestler O'Neill writes, "If I'm not mistaken, this is my first contact with *Middlebury Magazine* since I graduated 40 years ago! What inspired me to write today is the 10-year anniversary this past summer of a kidney donation from my brother, Andy Nestler '80, to my daughter Meagan. As timing would have it, Andy also walked Meagan down the aisle at her wedding this past summer. Our family will never be able to fully explain or communicate what Andy's decision meant to us. It was a beautiful selfless gift. Andy is a 'living organ donor' but even checking the organ donor box on one's driver's license is a gift. Too often individuals are simply not aware of this step." Through her note, Sally hoped her story might motivate people to check the box on their licenses. • **Susan Finney Blair** sent good news: "My poetry chapbook, *What Remains of a Life*, has been accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press. It's on sale at their website. I'm thrilled, as you might imagine! I've had several poems published over the years, but this is the first biggie." • This past summer, master printer **Heather Hale** played a significant part in helping to get the letterpresses in the Printer's Cabin at Bread Loaf functioning again. She worked with others to recondition the presses and figure out what needed to be acquired to set up shop. With two other printers, she gave a letterpress workshop at her shop in Stowe, Vt. She says, "Letterpress printing speaks to many disciplines: design, craftsmanship, math, mechanics. It's satisfying on the deepest level to think of something you want to communicate, put the form together, print it, and immediately have it in hand." The restored press will be available to students across all of Middlebury's programs, including undergraduates. To read more about the restoration, check out a story and video at go.middlebury.edu/newsroom. • **Charlie Peitz**'s sister, Mary Peitz Kelly '83, wrote to say, "Charlie passed away peacefully on August 23 after a short fight with small-cell lung cancer. Following graduation, he returned to the Philadelphia area, where he pursued a career in journalism and worked for a variety of magazines and newspapers. Charlie was an avid reader and a reflective thinker. His liberal arts education served him well as a successful writer and helped shape the compassionate, curious, and witty individual we knew and loved."

—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (boblindberg1928@gmail.com).

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REUNION CLASS Please send us your news! And don't forget our 40th reunion is June 8–10! Meanwhile, check out a photo of a classmate on page 82.

—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (djaffray@mchsi.com); Anne Rowell Noble (anne.noble@gmail.com).

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It's been a quiet few months for class news. In August, **Mary Lee Johnson** was honored in Rochester, N.Y., on the 30th anniversary of her ordination as a Lutheran minister. The celebration was planned around the baptism of her granddaughter Maggie Kate, with extended family and friends present. She serves on the staff of the Upstate New York Synod, as an assistant to the bishop, working with candidates for ministry and with the placement of pastors in congregations. • **Dan Novak** recently retired from the family practice office in Middletown, Conn., that he started 31 years ago with two other doctors. The practice has since grown to include six physicians and four midlevel providers. He writes, "I'm now teaching at the local residency program and working a few shifts a week in an after-hours clinic just to keep from getting rusty. Over the last 30 years I have been busy with the practice, raising my two kids, and going to Haiti on an annual basis on medical mission trips. Now that my kids are grown and out of the house (Boulder, Colo., and Brooklyn), I hope to do a few more mission trips yearly. Also, maybe now I will be able to make it back

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① Matt Boucher '08 married Katie Riley at St. Anthony Parish in Cohasset, Mass., on October 15, 2016. Middlebury classmates from 2008 joined them at the Red Lion Inn to dance their faces off to the soulful vocals of Leon Spradley and the Kahootz: Drew Walker, the newlyweds, Michelle Cady, (second row) Patch Culbertson, Joel Simpson, Chrissy Fulton, Sam Morrill, Maddie Terry, Ben Hanna, Patrick Cunningham, Mallory Hicks Walker, Rob Potish, and Marnie Rowe Potish. ② A group friends gathered for brunch in Queens, N.Y.: Chris Heinrich '07, Amaury Sosa '07, Chris Bohorquez '07, Ilhan Kim '07, Sully Diaz '06, Miosotis Perez '07 with new baby Amaru, Sharai Lewis-Gruss '07, Julia Kaminsky '07, Max Hulme '08, Carol Wilson '07, Michael Cooper '06, Sienna Chambers '07, and Louisa Irving '07. ③ Friends from the Class of 1994 had their annual mini-reunion in New York City: Kate Walsh Geagan, Sarah Johnson Rye, Megan Martin Maguire, and Jennifer St. Clair Waddell.

④ Alumni friends and son helped Bobbie Bates Lauterwasser '47 celebrate her 70th reunion: Franci Vinal Farnsworth '73, Bobbie, Bruce Lauterwasser '73, and Leisi Hebert '72. ⑤ Marc Bujold '91 was in Stockholm for business and spent an evening at the home of his freshman-year neighbor Phil McCrea '91.

to a Midd reunion." • I (**Alice Lee Openshaw**) was touched by a recent celebration in which two organizations dear to me got together on my behalf. I've been a member of the same book group for over 20 years and I have led it for the past 10 years. The group has grown to include over 70 people who follow the monthly book discussion summaries I write after our meetings. They surprised me by collectively donating over $5,000 to Literacy Volunteers of Bangor, a great organization in which I have served in various capacities over the years. The celebration also included a limerick in my honor which inspired me to write the following: The Middlebury Class of Seventy-Nine / Is intelligent, interesting, and especially fine. / So tell us your news / Or political views, / Or I'll be forced to tell you all mine! *—Class Correspondents: Debbie Fish Butler (midd79dbutler@gmail.com); Alice Lee Openshaw (alice.openshaw@gmail.com).*

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Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you! • Meanwhile, check out a photo of a classmate on page 82. *—Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd (annie.cowherd@att.net); Robin Howe (robinhowe.art@gmail.com); Annie Hartmann Philbrick (chapin802@gmail.com).*

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Maggie Threadgill Symington sent the following news: "**Marsha Cassel**, who teaches at Rutland (Vt.) High School, was chosen for the 2017 Victor R. Swenson Humanities Educator Award for her creativity, dedication, and excellence in teaching. Marsha not only teaches languages, but worked to bring the Capstone project to the school and helped create a new course called Global Citizenship. She is an inspiration not just to her students but to her fellow faculty. She was honored with the 15th Swenson award by the Vermont Humanities Council at the fall conference in November." *—Class Correspondent: Carolyn Bausch (cbausch@verizon.net).*

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Philip Hamilton writes, "My son, Gilberto, is touring North America with the Broadway production of *School of Rock*. I know, only 10 years old and he's following in the old man's footsteps. He is playing Freddy Hamilton, the drummer. I will be coming to many of the venues and would love to see Midd Kids along the way. The schedule can be found at ustour.schoolofrockthemusical.com/tour-dates. Come by the show and just say hi. I look forward to seeing everybody. Stay in touch." • From **Meryl Soto-Schwartz** we heard, "I'm in my 33rd year of teaching English composition and literature and frankly, I'm ready to do many other things. I'm kept going mostly by the oldest of the students in my community college classes and also by the single moms cohort that I teach each year. My son is a high school junior who has finally agreed to visit Middlebury, though when we spent a month in Bristol in 2015 he refused to set foot on the Midd campus. He was willing to see Bread Loaf, where we ran into Stephen Donadio. He dryly told my son that Middlebury 'isn't a bad place.' I'm looking forward to showing my STEM kid Bicentennial Hall but a bit apprehensive about the eight-hour hike I promised him in return." • **Jon Warner** writes, "It's amazing to reflect on arriving at Middlebury College almost 40 years ago—worthy of both a chuckle and a tear or two. My brain synapses seem the same as then, allowing for an ongoing belief in eternal youth. Thank you for including, in the summer issue, the reflections of the Midd student receiving scholarship support due to the generosity of our classmates. I'm in my third year as chairman of the J. Wood Platt Caddie Scholarship Trust, based in Philadelphia, which distributes over $1 million annually to financially needy youths who work as golf caddies over the summer months. Life-changing stories are abundant, and the recipients are a delight to get to know. Staying connected this way with a younger generation is a gift in and of itself. I was hopeful to make it to our class reunion last year but the weekend conflicted with additional volunteer responsibilities as I am the new chairman of the board for the Sacred Heart Academy in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Our two daughters attended this school and were admitted to Georgetown Univ. for their undergraduate studies. The school brought in new staff leadership last year resulting in personal excitement about the opportunity to make a difference. Why all this education interest? You may recall the Education Department at Middlebury was reinvigorated in the early 1980s. I selected education as my concentration, thanks to great experiences teaching children how to ski at the Snow Bowl. I'm still enamored by the potential of a well-rounded education for youths to keep our country and way of life strong." • **Mary Frangakis** reports, "Congrats to all who made it to reunion and thanks for sharing your photos! I wish I could've been there, but instead I had to pack out of my apartment as I was completing my tour of duty at the U.S. Embassy in Athens. I continue to proudly serve our country overseas as a diplomat in the Foreign Service, but now in a more challenging environment working as a political officer at Embassy Islamabad (Pakistan). My job has gotten more difficult and challenging under the current administration, particularly here in Pakistan in light of the new South Asia policy announced by the president in late August. But my respect for the Office of the President and my oath to uphold our Constitution continue to serve as my rudders on tough days, even as I watch esteemed senior diplomats resign or take early retirement. I won't say that I welcome anyone to visit me here in Islamabad (see State Department travel warning advising against tourism in Pakistan), but I do hope I can cross paths with Midd classmates when I'm next in Washington or New York. Shout out to Prof. Murray Dry, whose Constitutional Law course at Midd still serves me well to this day!" • Don't forget to check out the Middlebury Class of 1982 Facebook group—if you aren't a member, we would love to have you join to keep up on class news, photos, and connections!

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo@bellsouth.net); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).

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REUNION CLASS Fred Taylor was a recipient of the Denver Foundation's 2017 Philanthropic Leadership Award for his two decades of work serving as chair of the investment committees and on the boards of numerous not-for-profits in the Denver community. • Check out a photo of a mini-reunion **Carl Hobert** had in Kigali, Rwanda, on page 69. • Don't forget our 35th reunion is June 8–10! Hope you can make it back to campus!

—Class Correspondents: Allison Burroughs (adburroughs@gmail.com); Victoria Seiden Gonin (victoriagonin@gmail.com).

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Kevin D'Arcy was married to Dawn Smith on July 1, 2017. He was so happy that he actually sent a class correspondent a note to memorialize the event. He reported that tons of Middlebury classmates attended a beautiful wedding service and reception. • Middlebury friends gathered at the home of **Gillian "Jill" Goodman** in Vail, Colo., for a celebration of 55th birthdays in early September 2017. "We enjoyed gorgeous Indian summer weather, many laughs, and a rare opportunity to catch up face to face. The crew included **Beth Reuman** from Massachusetts and **Jennifer Pattee Schongalla** from New Hampshire; **Heidi Mosburg** and **Kristen Gould Case** from Utah; and **Kristin Smith Carpenter** all the way from Alaska. Our beloved **Elizabeth Hackett Robinson** was with us in spirit but (much to the group's dismay) quite busy with early-semester responsibilities on a beautiful college campus in Vermont. If we had customized a T-shirt for the occasion, it would have featured the slogan MIDD-LIFE WOMEN IN VAIL, for despite our hiking and running together, we all agreed our finest moments were spent in the kitchen cooking gourmet meals and eating them."

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Eppes Winton (ewinton@mac.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).

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Having vowed at our last Middlebury reunion to stage a similar gathering on the West Coast (and make the East Coasters fly across the U.S. for a change), **Paul Oyer** and **Sara Ramseyer Klein** organized the typical reunion housemates (**Jim Davidowitz**, **Wes Carrington**, **Josh Paris**, **Laura Ottaviano Copic**, and **Cynthia Van Vranken Keating**) to gather at Paul's house in Serene Lakes, Calif., for a weekend in September. Some big news was shared: **Wes** retired from the State Department in September after 28 years as a Foreign Service officer and is looking forward to getting together with more Midd friends in the future; and **Paul** is engaged to be married to Kathryn Stoner, a fellow Stanford professor, who you'll find referenced in Paul's book, *Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Economics I Learned from Online Dating*. A great time was had by all: eating, drinking, catching up, hiking (109 miles according to Wes—okay, maybe it only felt that way), paddle boarding, canoeing, miniature golfing, and not enough hot tubbing (also according to Wes). Sara, no Laura, no Cynthia won miniature golf (actually, we don't really know, as the three math majors aren't as good at accounting as you might think). • **Toni Mauck Butterfield** hosted **Debbie Tripp Budden**, **Nancy Urner-Berry**, **Laura Bull Bailey**, **Deb Payne Jewell**, and **Jenny Karin Sidford** at their annual Midd goddess getaway in Franconia, N.H., this past August. The gals participated in the 25th Annual Top Notch Triathlon, either as athletes or cheerleaders. A great time was had by all! • Check out a photo of another 1985 mini-reunion on page 82!

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Lohmann Davis (ruth.davis63@gmail.com); Denah Lohmann Toupin (denaht@comcast.net).

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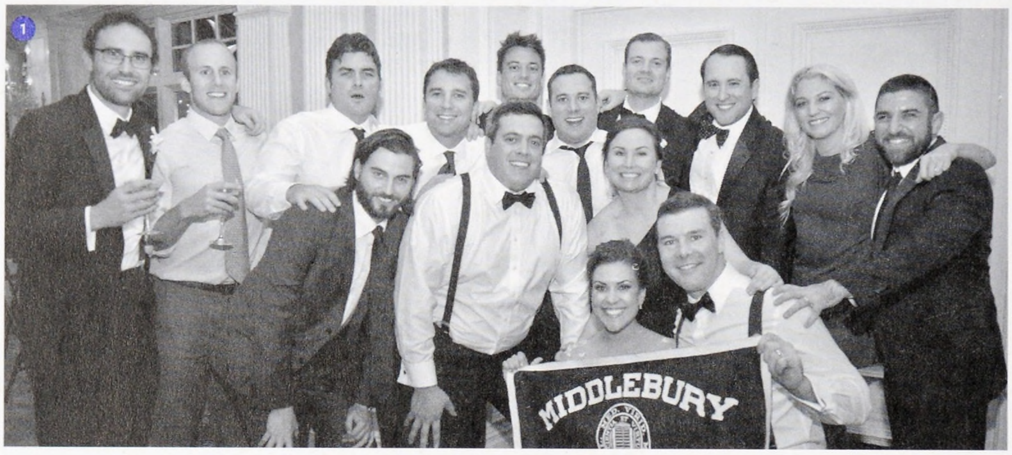
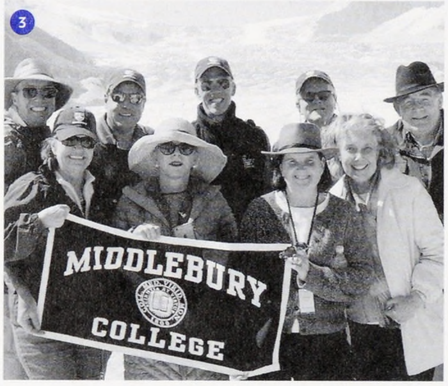
John Kirk is still working in Bangor, Maine, as the managing attorney for a statewide title company. His eldest, Charlotte, graduated from Smith in May and is now working in Boston. His son Marshall is a junior at Montana State in Bozeman studying engineering, dry flies, and powder. John's youngest is in Battell South and enjoying freshman year. John remarks, "I was back on campus for the first time in 14 years over Labor Day; it hardly looks like the same place." • **Nicole Rivet** and Al Ferguson were married on the grounds of an 11th-century villa on June 7, 2016, in front of 15 close friends and family. They live in Colorado Springs, Colo., where Nicole works as a senior development officer for the Nature Conservancy. They love living in Colorado and would love to see any Midd classmates who travel that way, especially if you are up for skiing or hiking. • Back in January of 2017, **Penny Hamlet Serrurier** was named the Portland office comanaging partner for Oregon's largest law firm, Stoel Rives. Penny has been with Stoel Rives since 1992. She focuses her practice on nonprofit law and tax-exempt organizations, charitable giving, estate planning, and trust administration. Congratulations! • We were saddened to learn of the death of **Mary Beth Veno-Sharp** on August 8 at her home in Sandown, N.H. Mary Beth will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by husband Rick, son Caleb, and daughter Emily. Mary Beth earned her master's in nursing at Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions in 1992, then worked in oncology at Nashua Regional Cancer Center until her most recent employment with Timberlane Regional School District as a school nurse at Sandown North





① John Montesanti '07 and Ali Pistone (in front) were married on November 12, 2016, in Florham Park, N.J. Middlebury friends in attendance included (all '07 unless noted) Chris Schmidt, Jimmy Parra, Mary Frederickson, (second row) David Burns, Stefan Hrdina, Alex Buggy, Scott Secor, Jacques Jenny, (third row) Dave Lee, Alex Scott, Chad Bellmare, Tessa Truex '05, and Andy Jacobi '05. ② On September 24, 2016, Stephanie Strohm '08 and Max Lando were married at the Barn at Flanagan Farm in Buxton, Maine, with friends and family from Middlebury helping them celebrate: (all '08 unless noted) Sean Meany, Melissa Whitehead, Barbara Banks-Altekruse '80, the newlyweds, Kolbe Franklin, Angelica Towne, (second row) Rishabh Kashyap, Dan Kelley, Becky Bierman Kelley, Aaron Gensler, and Donnie Stuart. ③ Midd alumni and spouses posed on the Columbia Icefield during an alumni trip to the Canadian Rockies with Professor of Geology Dave West: Don Henderson, Betty Austin Henderson '68, Dean Barry, Jane Elfner, Dave West, Lissa Moran Barry '80, Chip Elfner '66, Martha Coombs Parvis '78, and Paul Parvis.

④ On Friendship Long Island off the coast of Maine, friends from the Class of 2015 and 2015.5 got together for a mini-reunion: Joe Leavenworth Bakali, Mara Moettus, Charles Mathon, Seton Talty, Garrett Brann, Joey Giandomenico, Spencer Egan, Becky Goodman, Evan Allis, and Jason Feinman. ⑤ Friends from the Class of 1985 had a mini-reunion in Longboat Key, Fla.: Marcia Sullivan Kovalik, Lissa Briggs Gosiger, Maureen Menikheim, Suzanne Poulin Rowan, and Linda Tschudy Werner.

Elementary. • **Mark Andrew Westcott** has been living in Chile since graduation. He's married with four children and his oldest daughter was getting married in December. He remarks, "It's great except it makes me feel a bit old. Next I'll be a grandpa!" Mark bumped into **William Hallock**, who was on a sales trip to Chile, and they shared great old memories.
—Class Correspondent: Heather Pierce Post (heatherdpierce@gmail.com).

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On the 16th anniversary of 9/11, **Kimmy Chedel**'s foundation was featured in the *Montreal Gazette*. Kimmy formed the nonprofit charitable organization Team Frank 15 years ago as a way to honor her husband, Frank Doyle, who died in the World Trade Center attacks. Team Frank has supported schools and communities in Costa Rica, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, and other parts of the world, including doing such activities as distributing baby clothing to birthing clinics and school supplies to communities in need. • **Lauren O'Brien Adams** shared press coverage of **Ronit Rubinoff**'s support of victims of California's North Bay wildfires. Ronit opened her house in Sebastopol to women who had been rendered homeless by the fires. "I'm so proud of my roomie and BFFL, Ronit, for her generosity in that terrible crisis," writes Lauren. "Her work in Sonoma County Legal Aid helps so many California residents." • "Sent the youngest off to college in the fall," writes **Kate Sly Dando**. Then she and husband Brian were off to visit the UAE! • **Hussein Khalifa** shared some idyllic photos on our class Facebook page of a mini-reunion, in which Hussein, **Galen Hoskin**, **Bram Kleppner**, **Josh Colton**, and **Nicolas Boillot** gathered at Stinson Beach, Calif. Stinson Beach was "Fallback Plan C" after the Eagles Nest in the Adirondacks and then Napa were ruled out by acts of God. • Check out a photo of a mini-reunion some classmates had on page 69.
—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).

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REUNION CLASS Don't forget our 30th reunion is June 8–10!
—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatkojones@gmail.com).

89

Congratulations to **Tom DiNanno**, who was appointed as the assistant administrator for grant programs at the Federal Emergency Management Administration. • Congratulations also go to **Ann Battelle Ayad**, who was inducted into the Vermont Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in October.
—Class Correspondent: Melanie Friedlander (surgerygirl@verizon.net).

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Sarah Fangman is the new superintendent of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Timing is everything. Sarah moved to the Keys on September 2. Her first day in the office (September 5) involved overseeing the evacuation of the two offices and visitor center, securing the fleet of boats and vehicles, and evacuating about 40 people. "The hurricane damage down here is pretty devastating. It will take a long time to fully recover, and the new Keys will not be the same. But in my short time as a Keys resident, this community has demonstrated itself to be strong, generous, and resilient. We'll get through it." • **Suzy Chambers Sterner** wrote to say that **Sarah Menzel Park** (Suzy's freshman roommate) was recently honored with the South Carolina Special Education Teacher of the Year award! She also said **Michelle Martin Fisher** and her family moved to Florida, so hopefully they were okay post-hurricane. Suzy is still in the D.C. area and is a lobbyist for Orbital ATK (rockets and satellites) and really enjoys it. "I'm married to a writer (Civil and Revolutionary War history) and have two beautiful daughters, Abigail (11) and Nicole (9). I still play French horn, and I'm second horn with the National Concert Band locally. It's good stress relief." She runs into **Tim Berry** every now and then. • **Will Bain** is a district judge in Colorado Springs, where he has lived for the past 20 years. • **Erin McPherson** was profiled in Multichannel. She joined Verizon last December and is the head of content acquisition and programming. • **Elizabeth Toder** and two-year-old son Auguste enjoyed a beautiful Middlebury summer studying at the Deutsche Schule (German School). The plan was to make a quick return to Denver when the school ended after the seventh week, in order for pregnant Toder to deliver in Denver. However—Toder's daughter decided to make an early exit, and Frieda Margalit was born down the road in Porter Hospital on August 13, thus extending the marvelous summer in Middlebury! • Pickup at Camp Dudley in Westport, N.Y., was quite a reunion. **Doug Meyer** caught up with **Ted Smith**, who reports, "I'm in my 20th year at Berwick Academy in South Berwick, Maine, and I'm now the director of the Upper School. My three children have all attended Berwick. I'm proud of my continued Camp Dudley connection, as all three kids also went to Dudley/Kiniya, and I was on the board of trustees for nine years. Each summer I see so many Middlebury alums at the Dudley parents' weekend. Many classmates joined our fundraising efforts for the Middlebury Pavilion at Camp Dudley, which is a beautiful outdoor space on main campus named after our alma mater." • Doug is finishing his 10th year as head of institutional business at First Eagle Investment Management and lives in Bronxville, N.Y., with wife Stafford and daughters Reagan (16) and Lawson (10), and son JT (14). • **Tim Madden** has lived in Buffalo, N.Y., for the past 24 years and works for Johnson & Johnson out of his home. He's been married to wife Maria for 18 years and they have a 14-year old son, Tristan. • **Paola Venturini Hubert**, husband Darren, and her five-year old twins, Alex and Claire, are still *loving* living in Singapore after three years. Darren enjoys his job with Microsoft, while Paola shifted her hospitality career to part-time language teaching of Spanish, Portuguese, English, and Italian (and motherhood). Please reach out to her if you are ever in Singapore or in Asia at paoventhubert@hotmail.com or via Facebook. • **Bill Bishop** writes, "After 10 years in Beijing, I returned to Washington, D.C., in 2005 with my spouse and twin daughters. Our girls are now in sixth grade at my alma mater. I run an information consulting business about China, including a newsletter named *Sinocism* that has over 30,000 subscribers. I had a fun visit back in Midd in October 2016 for the Chinese Department anniversary and would love to see anyone who is passing through D.C." • **Gregg Beloff**, **Chris Hollander**, **Andy Frey**, **Ross Smith**, and Johannes Ernharth '91 completed their annual college football road trip in September, catching not just the Wisconsin-Northwestern game in Madison, but also the Packers-Bears game at Lambeau Field and a Cubs game at Wrigley Field in between—all in a 40-foot RV. • This past summer, **Jennifer Heck** studied lowland rain forest and montane cloud forests while investigating the biotic, physical, and cultural forces that affect tropical biodiversity in Costa Rica. Jennifer, a science teacher at Bainbridge Island School District in Poulsbo, Wash., took the graduate course in pursuit of her master's degree from Miami University's Advanced Inquiry Program. • **Donna More Volpitta** lives in Pound Ridge, N.Y., with her husband and four kids (10, 12, 14, and 15). Through her business, the Center for Resilient Leadership, she teaches people about the brain's response to challenge. Donna also works closely with Chris Waddell '91 on his Nametags Resilience Education Program, through which Paralympic athletes share their stories to demonstrate, "It's not what happens to you; it's what you do with what happens to you." • We regret to inform you of the death of a classmate **Lisa Lewis** on July 17.

—Class Correspondents: Doug Meyer (pdougm@aol.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).

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Bart Johnson lives in the Roaring Fork Valley of Colorado with wife Eden and their children, Chloe (14) and Miles (13). When not in the salt mine, he spends as much time as possible cycling, skiing, and traveling. • In Canada **Marc Alcindor** is the president of Fundraising.com, a division of Southwestern. He also is coaching an Atom AA hockey team. His daughter, Gabrielle, turned eight in December and son Nico is now two years old. "Let me know when you are in Montreal!" • **Dawn Blalock** writes, "After three years I have left NYC, where I was working in the UN headquarters, to relocate with my family to Beirut, Lebanon. Before leaving, **Robin van Orman Azqueta** came up for a long visit at my East Village pad and we even managed to score tix to *Hello, Dolly!* as a great treat. I had a great Midd meet-up with **Julie Jones**, **Jenny Miller**, **Ro Alfonso**, **Beth Levison**, **Dana MacGrath**, and **Tara Kasaks Cowles** (see a photo on the Midd '91 FB page). We also made an excursion out to Tara's Aspetuck Brew Pub in Connecticut. On my way out, I took a road trip to my father's hometown in the North Georgia mountains to see the eclipse. David Mulhbaum '90 in Maryland generously hosted me, my daughter, and my Aussie shepherd and Scottish deerhound. I also saw **Alden Whittaker** in D.C. I stopped over in Oakland, Calif., and had a quick catch-up with **Michele Rabin** and son Silas. We are now settled in Beirut, where my husband is working on the Lebanon-Israel border and, as the trailing spouse, I have taken a leave of absence and will be looking for a new job here. If there are any Midd Kids anywhere on the Mediterranean and especially in Beirut, let me know!" • **Kate Grimes McMahon** is still in NYC with her family. She hopes to have a weekend away with her Midd girlfriends this year. There, it's in print, gals—let's do it. She fondly remembers her time in Italy junior year and was planning a Columbus Day weekend with her family in Venice. She loves seeing lots of friend Peggy Boulos Smith '90—their kids go to school together. Look for Kate in the Steven Spielberg film *The Post*, which came out in December, and in season six of *Orange is the New Black* as Piper Chapman's lawyer. • **Robin van Orman Azqueta** writes, "We live in West Palm Beach, Fla., so we narrowly escaped Hurricane Irma, mercifully, and enjoyed our New York evacuation. My husband, who is Cuban, and I are raising two boys, ages 11 and 7, in a bilingual household. I continue to serve on the board of a charter high school, Everglades Preparatory Academy, serving at-risk youth, as well as on the Burton K. Wheeler Center board for public policy at Montana State Univ., and I run a marketing consulting business. On the sports side, I use my Midd swimming skills to run a children's swim team at our beach club in Palm Beach. I've been on a fitness kick and I'm learning to become a runner and training in the Pose Method, which has been fun. I treasure my Midd friends and am in touch with **Dawn Blalock**, **Monica Panosh Gullickson**, **Elizabeth Emory Gabrys**, **Alden Whittaker**, and David Muhlbaum '90." • **Matt Leafstedt** is still in Switzerland, living in the hills above Geneva, working for Medtronic as VP of EMEA, the structural heart business. "Two kids are in university in the UK, the oldest of which is doing her junior year abroad in Russia 30 years after me! Look me up if you are in the neighborhood!" • **John Waldron** writes, "I just had my sixth child, believe it or not—Emelia Violet, born July 27. Amanda and I now have four (Jed, Ava, Sam, and Emelia) and I have two (Hannah and Ashleigh) from my first marriage. My oldest (Hannah) is a freshman in college (SMU in Dallas) and my youngest is six months. A full squad! I'm running investment banking at Goldman Sachs and coaching my eight-year-old's hockey team, among other things. Life is busy but I would love to reconnect with Midd folks whenever possible." • **Scott Krugman** sent word that he and wife **Lynn** (**Holley**) ran into **Grace Garcia Lessing** as they all dropped off kids at Midd this fall as part of the Class of 2021. • **Kristin Holsman-Francoeur** was thrilled to have her first novel, *That One Small Omission*, published in October 2017 by Solstice Publishing, and says her second novel, *The Phone Call*, will be published shortly. She'd love to have other alums follow her blog. You can find it at www.authorkfrancoeur.com. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 80.

—Class Correspondent: Andrew Resnik (resnikandrew@gmail.com).

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Please send us your news! We'd love to hear what you are up to.

—Class Correspondents: David Boyle (davemboyle@gmail.com); Leslie Cone Pagnotta (leslie.pagnotta@medtronic.com).

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REUNION CLASS **Dave Low** was in San Francisco in August for the 2030 Districts Network Summit and found that two other alums he'd never met before were also attending: John Beeson '97 and Eleanor Johnstone '10. The three enjoyed getting to know each other. Dave works for the Portland, Maine, 2030 District, John works for the Ann Arbor, Mich., 2030 District, and Eleanor works for the San Francisco 2030 District. The 2030 Districts Network is a group of 17 cities around North America that have committed to helping buildings reduce resource use to help combat climate change, with their goals targeting significant reductions by 2030. • **Jen Gould Cippoletti** writes, "I'm a summer program advisor with Tips on Trips and Camps, a free service linking parents with overnight summer programs for their kids. Anyone looking for camps (traditional and specialty), travel (adventure, service, cultural/language immersion), or academic enrichment, please reach out! You can find me at jc@tipsontripsandcamps.com. In other news, I recently met up with some Midd friends in NYC: **Kelly Rivers Small**, **Nancy Zagami Hunt**, **Steph Gottlieb Fischer**, and **Sarah Cahill**. We're looking forward to heading back to campus for Reunion!" • As for news from me (**Maria**), I just obtained my New Jersey real estate license. So if you are looking to move to the Hoboken/Jersey City area, give me a call. I can help you find your new home! I am also still teaching as the K–8 Spanish teacher at Hoboken Charter School. • Be sure to put our 25th reunion on your calendar for June 7–10!

—Class Correspondent: Maria Diaz (latinawriting@gmail.com).

94

August provided an opportunity for a gathering of '94/94.5 classmates **Steve Reale**, **Paul Bavier**, **Sandy Durst**, **Jeff Herriott**, **Josh Kucker**, Andy Roebuck '95.5, and **Greg Boosin** in absentia. They spent a few days exploring San Francisco followed by two days in Sonoma for **Josh Kucker**'s wedding. "We ran over our own luggage, brought a chicken into the rehearsal dinner, and almost flipped the bounce house. Needless to say, a good time was had by all." • After a long hiatus away from the East Coast, **Kristin Hanson** has moved to the South Shore of Massachusetts and is the deputy general counsel at VetCor, a national consolidator of veterinary hospitals and clinics. While her golden retriever has enjoyed the perks of the new job, Kristin has enjoyed meeting up with other Midd Kids and getting back up to Middlebury when she can. • After a 22-year career at the Walt Disney Company, **Jared Goetz** recently moved to Lionsgate, where he was named to the newly created position of president of North American television and film distribution. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 80.

—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns94@gmail.com); Gene Swift (geneswift@gmail.com).

95

Emily Aikenhead Hannon moved with her family to Chapel Hill, N.C., in November. Emily, husband Chris, and their three girls are excited about their new adventure! • Congratulations to **Josh Tyree**, who was named in the *New York Times* by National Book Award-winner Jesmyn Ward as one of the writers working today that she most admires. To find out more about his latest book, *Vanishing Streets*, see page 38. • **Edwin Williamson** writes, "I recently had a great time visiting with Prof. John Berninghausen and wife Alice at Sewanee, the University of the South. Sewanee is exhibiting the Berninghausens' collection of modern Chinese ink paintings. After a very informative lecture about the collection and a nice introduction by Sewanee Vice Chancellor (and former Middlebury president) John McCardell, we had a wonderful dinner hosted by the McCardells in honor of the evening. In other news, I'm serving as faculty head of house in Hank Ingram House, one of Vanderbilt's freshman dorms, where I live with my wife, three boys, and 300 freshmen. A somewhat different scene from Stewart first floor circa 1991–1992, for sure. If you are in Nashville or visiting Vanderbilt, stop by to say hi! You can contact me at edwin.williamson@vanderbilt.edu."

—Class Correspondents: David Diamonon (ddiamonon@yahoo.com); Terra Reilly (sansivera@gmail.com).

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Congratulations to **Rebecca Rhynhart**, who was recently sworn in as Philadelphia's new city controller. She is the first female to serve in that position. • Please send me your news! I'd love to hear from you!

—Class Correspondent: Humberto Garcia-Sjogrim (humbertogs@gmail.com).

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Christine Jacobs Hanolsy writes, "I'm still in Portland, Ore., with my wife Meredith Hinkley Hanolsy '95 and our two children, Nicholas (8) and Zachary (6). Two years ago, after nine years coordinating professional development programs at Portland State Univ., I started working for the Reed College Alumni Programs Office. My Middlebury calendar hangs on the wall above my desk. In the last few years, I've rediscovered my love of writing. I recently published my first short story and am working on a novel. I also serve on the editorial staff of an online writing site, YeahWrite. Check us out!" • **Sean Libby** and his wife, Margot Ebling, recently launched a new line of plush toys, Inspirational Creatures. Designed to celebrate fun in the modern workplace, "Inspirational Creatures is kind of like if they remade *The Office* with the cast of *Lord of the Rings*. Our first two creatures, Sales Goblin and C.E.O. (Chief Executive Orc), are now available through our website, and we have a whole bunch more in production. We were very lucky to get Jennifer Beaumont Wilfrid '98 to design the hang-tags for us. More to come!" • **Brad Gottfred** writes in from Los Angeles, Calif., where he lives with his wife, Danica, and their two sons Leif (2) and Axel (4). He recently cofounded Bold Soul Studios, a new production and development company that will create programming for emerging platforms. Check out the *Hollywood Reporter* article here: goo.gl/AnPSmh. Also, his third book, *The Handsome Girl and Her Beautiful Boy,* will be available next spring! Congratulations, Brad! • And congratulations to **Jennifer Hefner Carbone**, who was inducted into Midd's Athletics Hall of Fame on November 4.

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jcarbee@gmail.com); Jackie Pelton Hoglund (jackiehoglund@gmail.com).

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REUNION CLASS Please send us your news—we'd love to hear from you! And put June 8–10 on your calendar for our 20th reunion! • Meanwhile, check out a mini-reunion photo on page 72.

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katiecomstock3@gmail.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com).

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Matt Saxton and his family have returned to Washington, D.C., after spending the last three-and-a-half years in Nairobi, Kenya. • **Matt Bak**, **Matt Saxton**, and **Scott Dudley** reunited this past fall to celebrate Bak's 40th and got the families together with a trip to the D.C. zoo.

—Class Correspondents: Melissa Pruessing (mpruessing@yahoo.com); Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

00

Happy winter, friends! The Class of 2000 has had a busy year! **Josh Otlin** started off the school year in an exciting new position: he is the new principal at Milford (Mass.) High School. Josh is also working on his PhD at Northeastern University, while raising three kids with wife Rachel. He says, "I'm always looking to hire promising young teachers!" • **Dave** and **Amanda** (**Ayres**) **Philipps** are living on the edge of the Rockies in Colorado Springs, where Amanda is a criminal defense attorney and Dave, who is a Pulitzer Prize-winning national correspondent for the *New York Times*, published his second book in August. *Wild Horse Country*, published by W. W. Norton, is a journey through the tangled history, myth, and politics of the most American animal, the mustang. Dave and Amanda were planning to meet up with **Alessandro "Sandro" Sacerdoti** in Salida, Colo., to celebrate Dave's 40th birthday. • **Sandro** has joined Bold Legal in Denver as an attorney in its corporate law practice. He represents clients in the purchase and sale of businesses, equity and debt financings, and credit facilities. Sandro recently visited the Midd '00 contingent in Whitefish, Mont.: **Dave Radatti**, wife Kelly, and kids Skyluna (3) and River (7 mos.), and their newest neighbors **Bill Mitsakos**, wife Jenn, and kiddo Linden (1), who are enjoying the beautiful house that Mindful Designs (**Radatti** and **Marty Beale**'s custom homes company) built them. Sandro says, "I'm glad that **Derek Esposito** will be moving into our cabin up the road from them soon. And I'm looking forward to hosting **Duff Lyall**, who will be out for a conference from Montpelier, Vt., where he is the new state director for the ACLU. I got to meet **Scott** and Susie Strife '02 **Leach**'s beautiful new daughter Ivy, and I recently went on a fun groad (gravel road) bike ride with Dave Leach '05 and Nick Jocelyn '02. I also got back to NYC last summer for the wedding of Chris Daniels '03 and Liz Seigel '05 with many Midd Kids in attendance. So, keeping the Midd connection alive and well out here in Boulder, Colo." Last summer Sandro enjoyed hosting Farid Noori '18 in Boulder. Farid is a current Middlebury student from Kabul, Afghanistan, an aspiring mountain bike racer and entrepreneur who is working to make mountain biking and other outdoor pursuits accessible to young people in Afghanistan and eventually develop adventure tourism there. I (**Jennifer**) am sure the rest of you join me in wishing Farid all the best! • I love hearing updates from all of you about fruition of dreams that were merely ideas when we were at Midd—and of course hearing about the completely different and unexpected paths people have taken, too. Where has life led you? Send me an update for the spring notes! Meanwhile, check out a mini-reunion photo on page 77.

—Class Correspondent: Jennifer Crystal (jennifercrystalwriter@gmail.com).

01

Josh Broder was selected to the ENR (*Engineering-News Record*) for their inaugural national top 20 under 40 list. • **Emily Sharkey** reports: "A group of Midd Kids and future Midd Kids got together on Kiawah Island for the eclipse, thanks to **Tom Santoro**, wife Andrea (Vanderbilt '06), and son Alex, who were back stateside from China. Midd Kids included **Tom Keon**, **Brian** and **Elizabeth Padgett Northrop** with their three kids (Darcey, Tobin, and Bennett), **Garrett** and **Kristen Lyall Dodge** with their two kids (Hadley and Grace), and **James Ong** and me with our two kids (Miles and Simon). Five of the kids shared bunks in the same room and got a taste of what Battell might be like in about 15 years." • **Dan Graham**, assistant professor of psychology at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, gave a talk at the Fitchburg Art Museum in Massachusetts titled "Introduction to Visual Stylometry: A Neuroscientific Perspective." He presented on his research about the ways the human visual system processes artistic images. • **Andrea Kaufman Wool** writes, "I'm a personal trainer and the founder of Autoimmune Strong, an online fitness program developed specifically for people struggling with autoimmune disease, fibromyalgia, and chronic pain. I developed this program because I myself live with multiple autoimmune diseases as well as fibromyalgia and I have found exercise and diet to be incredibly important in managing my daily symptoms and chronic pain. Upwards of 25 million people have been diagnosed with autoimmune conditions, and this population is growing rapidly. My program is the first of its kind to talk about how exercise needs to be tailored to people specifically struggling with these inflammatory diseases and to help them get strong without pain. Check it out at www.getautoimmunestrong.com."

—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Zach Bourque (zacharybourque@gmail.com).

02

Ted Walker, who lives in Houston, Texas, with his wife and two kids, is grateful for the support and generosity of his Middlebury fam while recovering from flooding as a result of Hurricane Harvey. He may have lost a great Middlebury T-shirt, but his appreciation for this community is stronger than ever! • **Holly Congdon Menguc** and her husband left Evanston, Ill. (a neighboring town to Skokie), and are both now milking 90 head of cows on an Organic Valley Coop-member farm outside of Middlebury and welcome any visitors to town—as long as they have boots! • **Anya Marie Smith** (who attended the French and Spanish schools) is living in France, struggling against the injustice of a judicial system known for granting rights to aggressors and refusing protection to victims. She has five kids aged 4 to 13 and enjoys boulder and cliff climbing in Burgundy and sandy Fontainebleau forest. She teaches English to adults and would love to bring her kids to Middlebury someday—but will have to get the travel ban on them lifted first. • **Justin Knox** earned his PhD in epidemiology from Columbia Univ., where he received a Fulbright Award to conduct research in South Africa. He attended Reunion Weekend with his wife, Justina Ngo '04, and their three boys, where they enjoyed catching up with old friends. • This past summer, **Jack Thurston** was honored with an Emmy Award for excellence in television news writing from the New England chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. News reporters, anchors, and producers in other markets around the country serve as peer judges for the awards. Jack is the Vermont correspondent for NBC Boston and New England Cable News, and also contributes reports to the state's NBC affiliate, WPTZ-TV. His reporting even occasionally brings him back to the Middlebury campus. • In bittersweet news, **Derek Chicarilli** announces that he has finally retired as mayor of Funkytown! Currently, he is exploring his fourth career as a doctor/radiologist at the University of Massachusetts. Next May, Derek will marry Miss "Dirty" Jerz (not her actual name) "so long as I survive my bachelor ski week in the Rockies with my Battell Center crew and more!" (I'm sure your correspondents speak for the entire class in saying "What a lucky gal!") • Thanks to the Class of 2002 from your trusty correspondents (San Francisco-based **Morgan Jones** and Philly boy **Eric Devon**) for making good use of our new Gmail address (middlebury02@gmail.com)! Don't make us work too hard—send fresh updates for 2018!

—Class Correspondents: Eric Devon (edevon@gmail.com); Morgan Jones (morganjones25@gmail.com).

Middlebury Alumni Association

2018 NOMINATIONS

Alumni Trustee
Zachary Bourque '01

MAA Board
The full slate of nominees for the term of office beginning July 1, 2018, will be available for viewing on March 1, 2018, and voting on April 1, 2018. The deadline for voting is April 30, 2018. Please vote at **go.middlebury.edu/maa**.

To appear in the online spring ballot, additional nominations must be received by **March 1, 2018**. These nominations must include a signed letter of acceptance, updated biographical information, a photo, and 200 alumni signatures endorsing your nomination.

For a paper ballot, more information, or to submit nominees, please contact the Alumni Office, 700 Exchange Street, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or email us at alumni@middlebury.edu.

SAVE THE DATE

Reunion 2018 will be June 8–10!

03

MARISSA ANSHUTZ HERMER

Working in PR in New York City after college, Newport Beach, California, native Marissa Anshutz Hermer '03 felt the urge to move even farther east. So, despite having no contacts or leads in the worst job market in years, she moved to London and began pounding the pavement. "I met with probably everyone under the sun, every owner of every PR firm," she says. She eventually landed a job with an international company, working for two years before returning to New York. Once back in the Big Apple, she reconnected with Matt Hermer, an English nightclub owner and restaurateur, eventually marrying him and returning to London.

Armed with strong public relations expertise, she worked to grow the family food, beverage, and entertainment business, the Ignite Group, which included Bumpkin, a highly successful restaurant; Boujis, a nightclub; and Eclipse, cocktail bars. Involved with work and raising two sons, the last thing she expected was to be approached by the Bravo network and asked to appear in a new reality show, *Ladies of London*. Her friend Noelle Reno, who was already in talks with the Bravo producers, was asked to recommend some other Americans living in London, and Marissa's name came up. Marissa declined the offer several times. Finally Matt asked, "Why don't you do it?" He said if it didn't work out, then it was just something crazy to do, and if it did work out, who knew what would happen?

She ended up starring three seasons with several other women. She says, "There were fights and tears, but on the whole we had a good time with each other." In the final season, her high-risk pregnancy provided nail-biting drama (daughter Sadie is doing fine). The show ended in 2016.

Marissa's difficult pregnancy limited her activities, but she could still cook and develop new recipes. When she first moved to London, she realized her California BBQ was going to take a backseat to classic Sunday roast, and s'mores were going to be pushed out by sticky toffee pudding. She adjusted but she didn't want to lose her roots. So she began to infuse British cuisine with some of her healthy California diet influences. Over time she developed a cadre of recipes, which she has now incorporated into a cookbook, *An American Girl in London: 120 Nourishing Recipes for Your Family from a Californian Expat*.

Marissa and her family recently moved back to California. They will continue to bounce between Pacific Palisades and London and, of course, eat food that blends the best of both worlds.

03

REUNION CLASS **Marissa Anshutz Hermer** recently published a cookbook, *An American Girl in London*, in which she draws inspiration for her recipes from her American upbringing and her years living in London, combining traditional British favorites with a healthy California twist. To find out more about what she has been up to over the years, see the Vault section above. • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 72. And don't forget our 15th reunion is June 8–10! Hope you can make it back to campus!
—Class Correspondents: Nathan Davis (davis.nm@gmail.com); Janine Knight-Grofe (jknightgrofe@gmail.com).

04

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you!
—Class Correspondents: Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (princess1328@yahoo.com); Drew Pugsley (drew.pugsley@gmail.com).

05

Diego Bivero-Volpe has been living in London since graduation. He launched and sold a tech start-up recently and has just started a new company called Ebume, which will help raise capital for charitable causes worldwide.
—Class Correspondent: Martha Dutton (martha.dutton@gmail.com).

06

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you!
—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com); Jess Van Wagenen O'Rielly (jessorielly@gmail.com).

07

Drew '06 and **Jess MacArtney Harger** were so excited to welcome Charles "Charlie" Dean Harger to the world on January 23, 2017! • **Becca Marcus** and **Erin McConocha** live in Los Angeles and started a Division F-3 softball team called Spread the Glove. If you're ever in Santa Monica, check out a game! They play every Sunday at Memorial Park. • After working for the government of Timor-Leste, **Ashley Clark** returned to the Bay Area and is a budget and legislative analyst for the city of San Francisco. • **Jake Harper** is living in McLean, Va., with wife Jackie (Dartmouth '04) and children Lily (4) and Logan (2). He is a healthcare fraud defense attorney with Morgan Lewis in Washington, D.C. • **Amanda Goodwin** earned a master's in independent school leadership at the Klingenstein Center at Columbia Univ. (She was classmates with **Jimmy Manyuru**!) She is still dean of students at the Nightingale-Bamford School in New York City. (FYI, Jimmy has taken a new role, as associate director of student life at the Waynflete School in Portland, Maine.) • On June 24, **Ross Lieblappen** married Steph Gregory in their backyard in South Royalton, Vt. Many Midd friends were there to help them celebrate! • **Steve** and **Lindsey Jones Hauschka** moved to Buffalo, N.Y., when Steve joined the Buffalo Bills as a placekicker. They also welcomed their first child, Jones Theodore Hauschka, into the world on August 12. • **Caryn LoCastro** and Michael Ratpojanakul '06 also welcomed their first child, Hailey Rae, in September 2016. She and mini goldendoodle Porter keep them busy and smiling. They recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary (and 14 years together!) and are thrilled that they decided to stay on the Upper East Side of NYC as they embark on parenthood. Caryn is also approaching four years at Google, where she advises top U.S. brands on video advertising strategy and has been lucky enough to work with alums like Suzie Reider '87. • In May 2017 **Doug Hale** graduated from American University's School of International Development, then started work at the Peace Corps headquarters in D.C. and bought a home in nearby Hyattsville, Md. • **Brendan** and **Emily Gustavson Owens** are pleased to share that they welcomed a baby girl on July 31, 2017. Her name is Pernilla Eleanor Owens. • Four years ago **Sam Timberg** started Meridian Prime, an exclusively South African wine importer. He imports wine from 15 different farms around Cape Town—it has been a ton of work so he was thrilled to be recognized by *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* as a 40 under 40 Tastemaker for 2017! • Check out a mini-reunion photo on page 80!

—Class Correspondents: Carlos Beato (carlosmbeato@gmail.com); Amanda Cook Maher (amandahollos@gmail.com).

08

REUNION CLASS **Liza Reynolds** married Justin Merolla on August 26 at the Allen Farm in Chilmark, Mass., on Martha's Vineyard. They had an awesome Midd crew in attendance including **Adam Weisman**, **Yanik Bababekov**, **Liana Sideli**, **Olivia Kerr Barker**, **Peyton Coles**, **James Kerrigan**, and Patrick Leibach '06. • *Vermont Life* recently did a profile on **Heather Neuwirth**, who serves as the director of programs at Middlebury's Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Social Entrepreneurship. The center runs 16 programs that expose students to creative skills and mindsets, and a few of the programs also have them build up an enterprise. She has also been working hard to help keep students in Vermont after graduation to take advantage of what the state has to offer. • Don't forget our 10th reunion is June 8–10! Hope to see you on campus!
—Class Correspondents: Michelle Cady (michelle.elizabeth.cady@gmail.com); Laura Lee Mittelman (laurawhitneylee@gmail.com).

09

Adele Plunkett is in the middle of an astronomy fellowship at the ALMA Observatory in the Atacama Desert. At the end of 2018, she will probably be continuing her postdoc position in Europe, country TBD. Anyone who wants to explore the great long country of Chile can get in touch! • **Michael Quinn** started a new job at Slalom Consulting and moved to Carlsbad, Calif., with his beautiful wife, Tracy.
—Class Correspondents: Billie Borden (billie.borden@gmail.com); Ashley Bell Volwiler (ashley.volwiler@gmail.com).

10

Liz Sutcliffe married Mike Valentine on August 20, 2016, at American Flatbread Pizza at the Inn at Lareau Farm in Waitsfield, Vt. Check out a photo on page 72! • **David Foote** is in Brooklyn working at a job that will improve all of our Bananagram abilities. As a semiotician, David works with mostly alcohol and media brands to understand how to effectively use language and culture to promote their brands. In his off time, he travels to far-off destinations. • **Alex Fisher** works as a clean energy analyst at a renewable energy consulting firm in Washington, D.C. As a recent graduate of the Johns Hopkins SAIS program in energy, resources, and environment, her work focuses on energy access and renewable minigrid solutions in developing countries. • **Patrick Ford** works for a small investment firm in Waltham, Mass. He and wife Dr. Julia Rudolf Ford were married in May in Phoenix. • **Jean Falconer** is in her fifth year of an economics PhD at the Univ. of Oregon, studying fiscal policy. • **Corey Selover** has started a job at Midd as a software engineer for the Web technologies and services team. She lives in Seattle, Wash., where she practices Aikido daily. She developed and released the video game Zorbit's Orbits in her free time over the past six years and loves to program in her free time. • Congratulations to **Jack Kramer** and **Nick Martell**, who were recently named as part of Forbes' 30 under 30 list! Jack and Nick, who were freshman year roommates before Nick transferred to Brown, started MarketSnacks when they'd just started jobs on Wall Street after graduation. They knew there should be a better way to keep up with financial news, and MarketSnacks has become a daily newsletter about Wall Street for Millennials that's quick, clear, and entertaining. Check it out at marketsnacks.com!
—Class Correspondents: Alice Ford (alicemarieford@gmail.com); Oscar Loyo (loyo.oscar@gmail.com).

11

As winter arrives and the snow begins to fall, we all reminisce about our Middlebury J-terms filled with sledding in front of Mead Chapel, Winter Carnival, and days at the Snow Bowl. If you're looking to curl up by the fireplace with a good book, consider checking out the work of one of our classmates: **Katherine Burdine**'s *The Bear and the Nightingale,* which was reviewed in the fall issue. She adds, "It's been a national bestseller, has been translated into 10 languages, and was named by Amazon and Barnes and Noble as one of the best books published in the first half of 2017. *The Bear and the Nightingale* is the first book of a trilogy. The second book, *The Girl in the Tower,* came out on December 5." • In other news, **Sam Harrison** was in Israel this past summer playing for the Maccabi USA Rugby team in the Maccabiah Games. The team was able to win the U.S.'s second-ever gold medal in the 15s competition, beating South Africa in the final match. After the tour, he returned to Colorado, where he's teaching math at Fountain Valley School, a boarding school in Colorado Springs. Outside of the classroom he keeps himself busy coaching the school's ski and tennis programs as well as serving as the head men's rugby coach at Colorado College and continuing to play rugby for the Colorado Springs Grizzlies. Let him know if you are stopping in Colorado for a ski weekend! • **Stephanie Henderson** writes, "It's been an exciting few months for me. After a really great six-plus years at Fidelity, I recently made a switch to Putnam Investments, where I'm helping to launch our new Sustainable Investing team + fund. We're basically investing in good companies doing good things for the world and I'm excited to be in a role where my career experience and overall values are lining up so clearly." • Congratulations to **Adam Kritzer**, who's film *Good Funk* was chosen to be screened at the third annual Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival last August. It was the film's Vermont premiere. • **Diane Lopez** received her law degree from Seton Hall Univ. School of Law in May 2016. She is admitted in New Jersey and pending admission in New York. Her recent professional experience includes serving as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Magali M. François and participating in the Immigrants' Rights/International Human Rights Clinic at Seton Hall, where she secured asylum for a Honduran family. Presently, she is an immigration attorney at New York County Defender Services and hopes to continue to advocate for the immigrant community. • We wish all the best to our recent newlyweds: **Luke Cunningham** married Katie Remington '10 on July 1, 2017, in Madison, Wis. Midd Kids from 2011 in attendance included **Luke Rahlson**, **Darren Scheufele**, **Joe Fiori**, **David Hild**, and **Connor Green**. Midd Kids from 2010 included Emma Gardner, Sam Maytag Armstrong, Maeve McGilloway, Abby Hoeschler Delaney, Kelly McCool, Anna Rosenblatt, Emma Johnson, Molly Elmer-DeWitt, Katie Hubbard, Meredith Stone, Bruce and Sarah Bryan Hallett, Patrick Cob Burton, and RD Jenkinson, along with many other Middlebury friends and family. • **Sarah Harris** works as a freelance reporter in Canton, N.Y., and recently founded Timberlin Creative, a communications consulting firm. She married Joseph Andriano (Oberlin '02) at Scott Farm in Dummerston, Vt., on June 10, 2017. Midd Kids in attendance included **Carla Cevasco** and Alex Oberg '10, **Lark Endean Nierenberg**, Elissa Bullion '10, and **Xian Chiang-Waren**, as well as Sarah's great-uncle John Mooney '51, her mother, Kate Mooney Harris '80, and her aunt, Beth Mooney Longcope '79. • **Madeline Dubner** sent in a photo of Midd alums who attend UVA Darden School of Business. Check it out on page 65. • Thanks to everyone who submitted updates! Please keep in touch and send your news to midd2011@gmail.com.
—Class Correspondents: Ashley Cheung (cheung.ash@gmail.com); Carly Lynch (cjlynch489@gmail.com).

12

It was wonderful to see many of you at our 5th reunion in June! If you have an update to share, we'd love to hear from you! Here is what some of you have been up to lately. • **Worth Baker** has been living in Boulder, Colo., for four years and has worked as an iOS software developer for the past three. He joined HouseCanary, a California-based real estate tech start-up, this past winter and is generally loving the Colorado life. • Also out West is **Noah Brautigam,** who reports, "I live in Salt Lake City, Utah, with my girlfriend, Märta Larsen, and I work with John Morton '68 (two-time Olympic biathlete) as a consulting trail designer. We work all over the northern U.S. designing cross-country skiing, hiking, running, biking, and equestrian trails for private landowners, municipalities, and state and federal governments. Occasionally we get a job in China and have the opportunity to practice our Mandarin and eat steamed tree frogs. I am also an ultra-distance trail runner for the U.S. Salomon Trail team, which takes me around amazing trails and public lands all over the country." • On the West Coast is **Addison DiSesa** who shares, "I'm living in Los Angeles and I'm in the midst of my 3L year at

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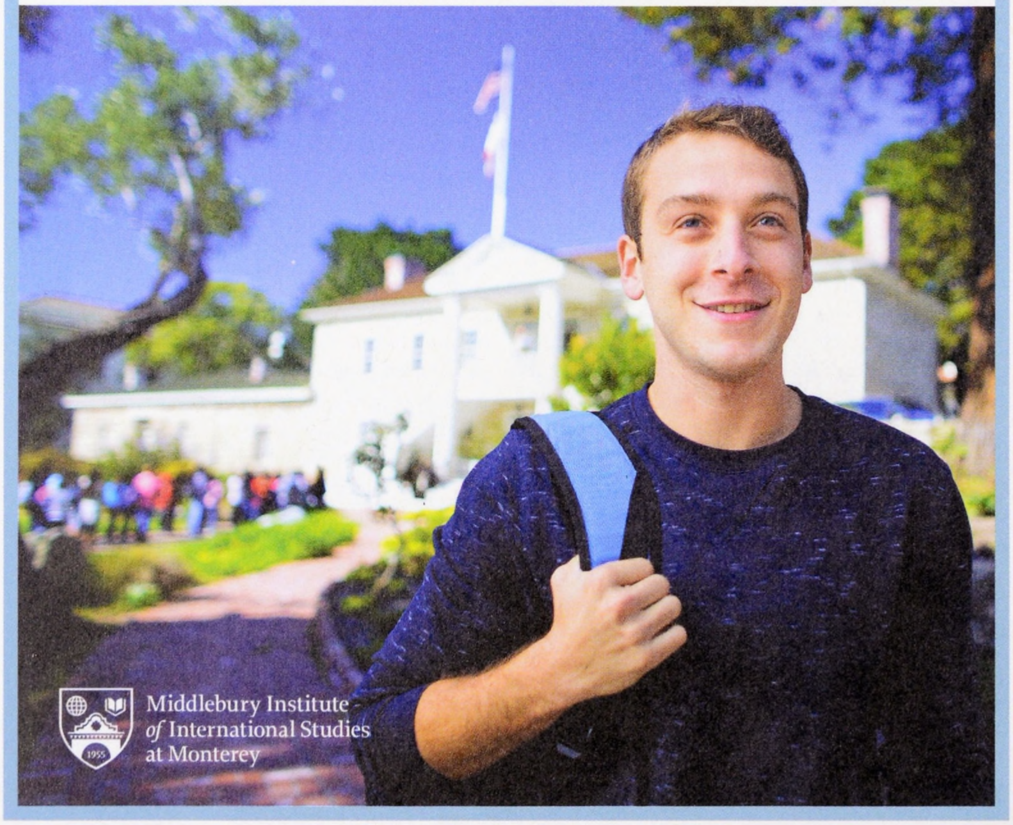

UCLA School of Law. I begin working at Reed Smith in downtown L.A. next fall. I am loving the West Coast." • Also on the subject of law school, **Karina VanHouten** graduated summa cum laude from Brooklyn Law School and joined the international law firm of Sullivan and Cromwell in NYC. • **Evan Deutsch** is still serving as managing director of Oxbow, a creative agency he cofounded with Jon Portman '13 three years ago. Oxbow doubled in size last year, including the addition of Kate Robinson '16 on staff. Recently, Oxbow has been working on projects with TED Talks, ACLU, and Purpose. • **Nick Daly** and sister Nora '13 were profiled in *Maine Magazine* while competing in the Casco Bay Islands SwimRun. Nick is in his fifth season as the swimming and diving coach at the University of Chicago. • Mike '11 and **Amy Doucette Gaskin** celebrated their first wedding anniversary in September. The ceremony was officiated by **Alex Siega** and many Middlebury classmates were in attendance. Since their wedding, they have bought their first home and settled in the quiet farm town of Berlin, Mass., with their dog Wiki. • **Jacob Udell** and **Maya Goldberg-Safir** reunited this past September for a trip to Middlebury to commemorate the eighth anniversary of *Jews News*, a biweekly Hillel newsletter that Maya wrote and Jacob thought they wrote together between 2010 and 2012. The weather was stunning, and they slept in separate beds. Meanwhile, **Patrick D'Arcy** experienced the pangs of heartache when he wasn't invited to join Jacob and Maya on their trip to Middlebury, but he thinks it may be because he isn't Jewish. • Congratulations to **Matt Cawley** and Emily Baird (Bucknell Univ.) for getting married on August 6, 2016, in Rye, N.Y., with 17 Midd alums in attendance! • As for us, **Paige Keren** graduated in May from Columbia University School of Social Work with an MSW and earned her LMSW certification one month later. She works as an emergency room social worker at Mount Sinai West Hospital in midtown NYC and absolutely loves her job! • And **Sara Cohen** moved to Philadelphia this summer after earning a master's degree from the Stanford Graduate School of Education and began a new position as associate director of admissions at Penn. • Feel free to drop either of us a line at any time!

—Class Correspondents: Sara Cohen (srcohen90@gmail.com); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).

13

REUNION CLASS **Julia Gulka** is studying for her MSc in biological sciences at the University of Manitoba, with a focus on seabird foraging ecology and marine conservation. • **Andrew Ackerman**'s film *Chasing Coral* was shown this January as part of the Hirschfield Film Series on campus. A Q&A was scheduled with Andrew, who is the cinematographer. • Hope you can make it back for our 5th reunion, June 8–10!

—Class Correspondents: Elma Burnham (eccburnham@gmail.com); Peter DiPrinzio (peterd1331@gmail.com).

14

Please send us your news. We'd love to hear from you!

—Class Correspondents: Vivian Cowan (viviancowan@gmail.com); Peter Mattson (petercmattson@gmail.com); Hannah Ostrow (hannahostrow@gmail.com).

15

Please send us your news! We'd love to hear from you! Meanwhile, check out a mini-reunion photo taken in Maine of friends from 2015 and 2015.5 on page 82 that **Garrett Brann** sent in!

—Class Correspondents: Elyse Barnard (elyse.dh.barnard@gmail.com); Cooper Couch (couch.cooper@gmail.com).

16 **Zane Anthony** is living in Washington, D.C., and pursuing a Master of Arts in journalism and public affairs at American University. After the 11-month degree, he hopes to turn his attention to researching and reporting on the links between design, ecology, and urban transformation at think tanks in the nation's capital. • **Nat Blackford** has found work at Efficiency Maine, where he supports programs that help save energy and prevent carbon emission. He's currently living in Brunswick, where he started a small (but rapidly growing) garden. • Over the past year, **Shaya Christensen** has been working as the producer of a documentary film about the Nicaraguan Literacy Campaign of 1980. After spending a month in July shooting the film in Nicaragua, her team headed into postproduction. Stay tuned for release dates!

—Class Correspondents: Emma McDonald (elmcdonald21@gmail.com); Aviva Shwayder (aviva.shwayder@gmail.com).

17 After graduation, **Robert Zarate-Morales** uprooted his life to Brooklyn, N.Y., and began working as a junior business analyst/program assistant for a nonprofit called the Business Outreach Center, which aims to improve the economic prospects of traditionally underserved populations. In his spare time, he volunteers and tries to explore the hidden crevices of New York City. • After graduation, **Sarah McNeill** moved to Burlington to start a position as a contractor at the U.S. Attorney's Office. There, she assists attorneys with their cases by being a liaison between them and their witnesses and other attorneys, as well as with DEA, FBI, and ATF agents. She also takes part in the preparation of their trials by transcribing jail calls, organizing briefs for court, and managing potential evidence. • **Wentao Zhai** prepped for the LSAT this past summer and then started a one-year Master of Studies program in Greek/Latin at Oxford University. • **Conor Maxwell** interned in the fall at the German Marshall Fund, a transatlantic think tank and grant-making organization based in Washington, D.C. Working in strategic partnerships, he contributed to and supported its programming and convening through grants, reports, and other deliverables. It provided Conor with a deeper understanding of Washington and international politics, NGO management, and the ideas and people that are shaping the global stage.

—Class Correspondent: Ivan Valladares (ivanantvall@gmail.com).

OBITUARIES

42 **Virginie Witte Miller**, 95, of Tucson, Ariz., on October 15, 2017. She worked for two years at Guaranty Trust Co. before joining the WAVES as an ensign during WWII. After her children were grown, she earned a master's in German language and literature at SUNY Stony Brook then worked at the Heckscher Museum and for David Rockefeller at the Arts, Education, and Americans at Rockefeller Center in NYC. Retiring to Arizona, she earned another master's in art history at the Univ. of Arizona and served as a docent at the Tucson Museum of Art. Predeceased by first husband Wynkoop Kiersted and second husband Bill Miller, she is survived by sons John, Chris, Dan, and Bill, daughter Nancy, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

43 **Elizabeth Brigham Barrett**, 96, of New London, Conn., on September 14, 2017. A member of TriDelta at Middlebury, she worked during WWII at the Burlington (Vt.) National Airport for Colonial Air Lines as a communications dispatcher. For many years she worked with her husband in his general medical practice office. In 1976 she helped establish the Leisure Drop-In Center for mental health respite and services. Predeceased by husband Frederick and children Edmund, Anne, Thomas, and Timothy, she is survived by daughters Barbara '68, Kathleen, Lois, Elizabeth, Theresa, and Jane, sons Lawrence, Robert, Frederick, Stephen, Christopher, and Matthew, 28 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include sister Lois Brigham Selnau '46.

44 **Ruth Child LaFrance**, 95, of Perrysburg, Ohio, on September 30, 2017. She earned a master's degree from Columbia Univ. and did teacher training at the Lexington School for the Deaf. She taught high-school-age hearing-impaired students in Toledo, Ohio, for many years. Predeceased by husband James, she is survived by children Anne, Margaret, Steven, and Julie, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

45 **Robin D. Willits**, 94, of Exeter, N.H., on September 30, 2017. During WWII he was a pilot of a B-17 bomber, flying 34 missions from England over Germany. A member of Delta Upsilon at Middlebury, he earned his engineering degree from MIT and started his career as an industrial engineer at Eastman Kodak. He also worked at General Control and Raytheon before earning a PhD in organizational behavior from MIT in 1965. He served as associate dean and professor of the Whittemore School of Business at the Univ. of New Hampshire, retiring in 1990, and coauthored the textbook *Effective Behavior in Organizations.* He is survived by wife Phyllis Killam-Abell, sons Roy and Thomas, stepdaughter Susan Abell, three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

The following is a list of deaths reported to us since the previous issue went to the printers. Full obituaries will appear in future issues of the magazine.

Joyce Hitchcock Hardy '46	October 31, 2017
Louise Gerlitz Ebner '48	October 11, 2017
Janet C. Kohler '48	November 19, 2107
Gloria Bou Kelly '50	October 1, 2017
William J. McKinley Jr. '50	November 22, 2017
William N. Castor '51	November 20, 2017
John S. Cummings '53	November 26, 2017
Robert B. Entwistle '55	November 17, 2017
John A. Knowles III '58	November 1, 2017
Ruth Haynes Sargent '59	October 11, 2017
Carol Nieter Ackerman '63	October 31, 2017
Joyce Smith Mills '66	November 19, 2017
Richard P. Mills '66	November 1, 2017
Lane Mabbett '67	October 26, 2017
Carol Conklin Wheelock '67	October 19, 2017
Andrew A. Merdek '72	November 18, 2017
Michael N. Costin '77	November 4, 2017
Kelly S. Swales '83	October 13, 2017
Tyler M. Beebe '02	November 15, 2017

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

John D. Cole, MA English '69	October 27, 2017
François Boutin, MA French '47	November 1, 2017
Barbara R. Holden, MA French '47	November 4, 2017
Marjorie Lawrence Kellogg, MA French '56	November 13, 2017
Marlene Palladino Ross, MA French '76	November 4, 2017
Cynthia Stratton Wilson, MA French '77	November 12, 2017
Mary M. Seiler-Nowatka, MA German '65	November 6, 2017
Ardis L. Nelson, MA Spanish '72	November 8, 2017
Camille Wernsing, MIIS, BA French '79	September 22, 2017
Regina Todd, MIIS, MA Language and Culture '65	August 24, 2017

47 **Jean Taggart Lindblad**, 91, formerly of Needham, Mass., on September 8, 2017. With a master's in early childhood education from Wheelock College, she was the founder and longtime director of the Congregational Church Nursery School in Needham. Predeceased by husband Carl, she is survived by sons Peter '74 and Timothy '77, five grandchildren, including Andrew '05 and Matthew '07 Lindblad, and three great-grandchildren.

48 **Leonard Chernus**, 91, of Kingston, Pa., on September 12, 2017. During WWII he enlisted as a V-5 naval aviation cadet and was assigned to the V-12 unit at Middlebury. He served as an officer

STANLEY P. BATES
JANUARY 21, 1940–DECEMBER 10, 2017

Stanley P. Bates, 77, professor emeritus of philosophy, of Weybridge, Vt., died on December 10, 2017. Raised in Glendale, Calif., he attended Dartmouth College, where he graduated summa cum laude in 1961 with highest honors in philosophy. He was selected for Phi Beta Kappa his junior year and earned an Alfred P. Sloan National Scholarship. A Marshall scholar, he studied at the University of Oxford, where he earned a second bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and several academic laurels. Returning to the U.S. in 1963, he studied with political philosopher John Rawls at Harvard. While pursuing his PhD, he was a teaching fellow at Harvard and later an assistant professor at the University of Chicago.

He joined the faculty at Middlebury in 1971. Three years later he earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor, and in 1976, he was named acting dean of arts and humanities. In 1980 he was promoted to full professor. Widely known for his understanding of Kant, Nietzsche, and Wittgenstein, Middlebury named him the Walter Cerf Distinguished College Professor in 1996. His many courses included Human Nature and Ethics, American Philosophy, and Kierkegaard, Marx, and Nietzsche. He offered the 100-level Introduction to the Philosophical Tradition and enjoyed teaching first-year seminars on Tragedy and Philosophy, and the Fate of Morality. His close friend and colleague, Victor Nuovo, Charles A. Dana Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, says, "He prepared his lectures carefully, and they were wonderful models of clarity. He was also always there for students. His kindness and decency won students' trust, and he was generous of his time in advising them."

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference was also dear to his heart, and he found time from 1978 to 1994 to serve as the administrative director. He also served multiple terms on various committees and held leadership positions in various professional associations.

He is survived by wife Virginia, daughters Jennifer and Lissie, and three grandchildren.

in the South Pacific and then in the Naval Reserve for 23 years, retiring as a lieutenant commander. After the war he worked for U.S. Naval Intelligence then worked many years as the sales manager at Clinton Square Wholesale Distributors in New Jersey and as a catalog merchandiser for Jewelcor in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Predeceased by daughter Sue, he is survived by wife Debby (Feldman), children Roy, Jo, and Jack, seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Sanders D. Rosenberg, 90, of Palm Desert, Calif., on September 23, 2017. During WWII he served in the Navy and continued in the Naval Reserve until 1950. With a PhD in chemistry from Iowa State Univ., he became a research chemist with Metal and Thermit in Rahway, N.J. After four years, he became a researcher with Aerojet, working on projects such as Titan, Polaris, Apollo, and the Space Shuttle. He retired as chief scientist of the Aerojet Propulsion Division in 1993 after 35 years and formed a satellite propulsion consulting firm, In-Space Propulsion. He authored over 70 publications, received several Certificates of Appreciation, and was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the AIAA Space Resources Technical Committee. He and wife Rita had two boys, Nathan and Robert.

Henry T. Wilson, 91, of Woburn, Mass., on October 18, 2017. During WWII he served in the naval aviation program. Beginning in journalism, his career centered on the fields of public and community relations, fundraising, promotion, and media relations. Newspapers, radio-TV outlets, hospitals, and university medical centers were among his employers in New York and New England. He was the founder of the New England Assoc. for Hospital Development. Predeceased by wife Cecile (Landry), he is survived by children Douglas, Celia, Elyse '78, Paula, Diana, and Mark, and eight grandchildren.

49 **Elizabeth Bigelow Bauerle**, 89, of Dallas, Pa., on October 5, 2017. A case worker for Morris County Human Services in New Jersey, she spent 25 years diligently serving numerous clients until her retirement in 1992. Predeceased by husband Leslie, she is survived by daughter Lorna and her family. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Leroy, Class of 1921.

Marjorie I. Mullen, 89, of Brevard, N.C., on September 13, 2017. She had a long career in Hollywood as a script supervisor for sitcoms *The Dick Van Dyke Show, The Mary Tyler Moore Show,* and *Murphy Brown.* She was also one of TV's first women directors, after she was admitted to the American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women in 1974, directing four episodes of *The Mary Tyler Moore Show.* In 1996 she retired and moved to North Carolina. She is survived by two nieces and six nephews, including Les Lindeman '78. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Adele '52 and brother-in-law Bard Lindeman '50.

Edward W. Mulligan Jr., 92, of Newburyport, Mass., on August 25, 2017. During WWII he served in the Marine Corps as a radar operator before attending Middlebury, where he excelled at football. In 1949 he joined Towle Silversmiths as a salesman and retired in 1985 as chairman, president, and CEO. In retirement he served on the board of directors of Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. and First and Ocean Bank. Predeceased by wife Katharine (Cooke) '49, he is survived by sons Randy '68 and Michael '75, daughter Kathy '72, six grandchildren, including Katharine '00 and Christopher '02 Lord, and six great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include nephew Dwight Dunning '67 and great-niece Rebecca Dunning Jones '97.

John H. Valentine Jr., 93, of Carlisle, Mass., on September 6, 2017. During WWII he served in the new air wing of the Army and was a gunner on 18 bombing missions out of southern Italy. At Middlebury he was in Sigma Epsilon and skied on the team that won the national intercollegiate championships in 1948 and 1949. He began his career as a trainee stockbroker at Merrill Lynch and became a managing partner at Glore Forgan Staats and then Tucker Anthony and RL Day. In 1980 he purchased Beech Hill Hospital, a private alcohol and drug inpatient center in Dublin, N.H., and served as president and CEO for over 10 years. In 1991 he became the director of entrepreneurial management at Boston Univ. Healthy Policy Institute. He also raised cattle on his farm. Predeceased by daughter Jessica and son Peter, he is survived by wife Betty (Hiam), children Ian, Lisa, Anne, Alison, and Tom, and eight grandchildren.

50 **Rufus P. Cushman III**, 88, of Proctor, Vt., on September 4, 2017. A member of Chi Psi at Middlebury, he had a long career in merchandising and sales, including with State Mutual Life Assurance in Georgia and Massachusetts. He then worked as a trust officer at Bank of New England until his retirement in 1991. After retiring he worked part time as director of planned giving for the United Church of Christ in Massachusetts. A member of the choir at Middlebury, he had a lifelong love of singing with many different groups. He was a loyal alumnus, working with both the development and admissions offices. He is survived by wife Connie (Olney), sons Robert and Philip '81, daughter Jeanne, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include sister Elizabeth Gumbart '53 and nephews Thomas '82 and David '86 Gumbart.

51 **Robert S. Bigelow**, 92, of Rutland, Vt., on September 1, 2017. During WWII, he served in the Navy aboard the USS *Salinas* in the Aleutian

Islands. At Middlebury he was in Delta Upsilon and played football. He had a lifelong career in the lumber business and helped form Rutland Plywood Corp., Killington Wood Products, Tupper Lake Veneer Corp., and Bernhard Bay Veneer Corp. He is survived by wife Jeanne (Roe), daughters Barbara, Nancy, and Patricia, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

52 **Barbara Bieber Zeiller**, 86, of Towson, Md., on October 9, 2017. She was a member of Tri Delta at Middlebury. While raising her daughters, she was an active volunteer, including 17 years at WBAL Radio Call for Action. Predeceased by husband John '51, she is survived by daughters Linda, Susan, and Nancy, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

53 **Ann Austin Brackett**, 86, of Sarasota, Fla., on September 12, 2017. A member of Pi Beta Phi, she entered the executive training course at the Jordan Marsh Co. after graduation, becoming an assistant buyer in children's hosiery and accessories. After raising her sons, she worked as the stated clerk of the Presbytery of Chicago. In the mid-1980s, she and her husband became volunteers in mission for two years, working in rural Utah and for Heifer Project International in Arkansas. She and husband Bill '53 had two sons.

Robert E. Cowles, 87, of Massena, N.Y., on October 6, 2017. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he enlisted in the Army, serving in the Mountain and Cold Weather 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale in Colorado. He owned DeMar Dairy in Mexico, N.Y., then later became a member of the 273 Pipe Fitters in Oswego, retiring after 20 years. He is survived by wife Marlene (Dudash), son Martin, stepchildren Marlene, Russell, and Kristine, and seven grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include father Graydon, Class of 1917.

Jeanine Riviere Puydoyer, 86, of Maisons Alfort, France, on August 10, 2017. After spending a year at Middlebury as a Fulbright student, she returned to Paris, where she taught English for many years at Education Nationale. Retiring in 1991, she stayed busy with the Université Inter Ages, teaching five levels of students of all ages. She was a talented artist, whose works were exhibited in many venues, including the Louvre. Predeceased by husband Jean Louis, she is survived by daughter Anne and her family.

55 **Mona Duggan Nesbitt**, 84, of Pittsford, N.Y., on September 30, 2017. Over the years she volunteered many hours in St. Martin's Place soup kitchen and at Strong Memorial Hospital. Predeceased by husband James, she is survived by sons Jeffrey, Andrew, Gregory, and James, and five grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include mother Barbara Russell Duggan, Class of 1919 (deceased), and nephew Chad Mollica '79.

56 **Samuel P. Norton**, 83, of Newtown Square, Pa., on September 1, 2017. A member of Kappa Delta Rho at Middlebury, he first worked as a reporter; then joined the public relations dept. of New Holland Machine Co.; was a copywriter with the N. W. Ayer advertising agency from 1961–1973; then joined Fidelity Bank in 1973 as director of advertising and left in 1985 to create advertising at the Vanguard Group of Investment Companies, retiring in 1997. He is survived by wife Margaret (Cochran), and children Samuel and Mary.

59 **Stephen P. Cohen**, 78, of Naples, Fla., on June 29, 2017. A member of Delta Kappa Epsilon, he earned his medical degree at the Univ. of Maryland and did his residency in urology at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. He had a private practice in urology for over 40 years and served as chief of staff and chief of urology at Sinai Hospital for over 30 years. He was also a devoted volunteer for the Baltimore Cancer Support Group. He is survived by son Michael '89 and daughter Laura '92, four grandchildren, and former wife Susan.

Paul A. Schosberg, 79, of Katonah, N.Y., on September 25, 2017. He began his career as a reporter and the eventual bureau chief of the *Reporter Dispatch* before serving as chief of staff for Rep. Richard Ottinger and Rep. Herman Badillo and coauthoring *See How They Run: The Making of a Congressman.* In 1974 he returned to New York to head the New York League of Savings Institutions and in 1992 he became the CEO of America's Community Bankers. He and his wife established a successful thoroughbred breeding operation and he served two terms as president of the New York Thoroughbred Breeders and spent 12 years as a director. He is survived by wife Jane, children Jill and Richard, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Peter '63.

Susan Miner Smith, 79, of Redway, Calif., on August 26, 2017. A member of Theta Chi Omega, she worked as a research biologist at Roswell Park in Buffalo, N.Y., and Bellevue Hospital and Sloan Kettering in NYC before working in the Biology Dept. at Yale. She earned a master's in cellular physiology from NYU. After marrying, her family lived abroad in Pakistan, Indonesia, Bolivia, Yemen, and Uganda among other places. The past 23 years she and her husband lived off the grid in Northern California. She and husband Ed had two children, Meredith and Amos.

60 **Samuel C. Hoyt**, 79, of New York, N.Y., on April 3, 2017. A member of Alpha Tau Omega at Middlebury, he attended a year at the Army Language School, then spent a year each in Japan and

JACQUELINE FOSTER FLICKINGER
FEBRUARY 4, 1923–OCTOBER 22, 2017

Jacqueline "Jackie" Foster Flickinger, 94, of Middlebury, Vt., died on October 22, 2017. Born in Beverly, Mass., she was a bright student who skipped a grade in elementary school and was a graduate of Beverly High School. After attending Katharine Gibbs School, a well-known secretarial school, she worked at General Electric during World War II. She married John Flickinger in 1945 in a wartime wedding that required pooling rations for gas, butter, and other commodities. Together they raised four children and she devoted herself full time to her family and household.

In 1966, her husband's job brought them to Middlebury, and in 1967, she joined the Office of Student Activities at the College. Her warmth and natural gift with young people, coupled with her organizational abilities, high standards, and good judgment, led to her being promoted to director of student activities in 1973. In this position, she oversaw the College's many student clubs and organized Winter Carnival, Homecoming Weekend, concerts, and other major events. She retired from the College in 1988 after forging lasting relationships with many students, administrators, and faculty.

Jackie was gracious, intelligent, and welcoming with a strong moral compass. Her genuine interest in and concern for others allowed her to connect with all kinds of people. She was a caring relative and neighbor and an active member of the Middlebury Congregational Church. She enjoyed cross-country skiing and swimming and was an avid walker around the village and on hikes with husband John.

Jackie took deep pleasure and joy in her family and she and John hosted many ski weekends, holidays, and other get-togethers in Middlebury. Her family remembers with great fondness the many gatherings she and John hosted, where the food was ample and delicious and conversation flowed easily among the generations seated around the large table. She doted on her grandchildren, traveling with John to attend numerous recitals, sports events, and graduations.

Predeceased by husband John and son Robert, she is survived by son Jay, daughters Barbara and Nancy, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

ROBERT P. YOUNGMAN '64
NOVEMBER 5, 1940–JANUARY 1, 2018

Trustee emeritus Robert P. Youngman, 77, of New York, N.Y., died on January 1, 2018. A member of the Class of 1964, he graduated with a degree in political science and launched his career in finance with the American International Reinsurance Company in Manila, Philippines. In 1976 he started the investment management firm Granite State Corporation, later known as Hovey, Youngman Associates and finally as Griffin Asset Management.

In 1979 he was elected to Middlebury's Board of Trustees, where he was a member of the investment committee and served as chairman from 1993–1995. Upon the completion of his term, the board issued a statement saying he always "stepped forward to give direction and inspiration to every committee and challenge of the board." The statement continued, "Bob exemplifies what it means to have gone to Middlebury." His vision and leadership were instrumental in the creation of the Center for the Arts; his expertise in financial matters "led to the tremendous growth" of the College's endowment; and his tenure as chair "showed the community that all voices are heard, that trustees are accessible, and that informed decisions are made after thoughtful consultation." The College conferred an Honorary Doctor of Arts on him at the 1996 Commencement.

His deep and enduring interest in Asian art and culture led him and wife Barbara to establish a vast number of endowed funds at the College to support the acquisition of art, the exhibition and cataloguing of artworks, student internships in the field of Asian art, and the preparation and curation of works of art. They also donated numerous works from their own collection to the art museum. In 1995 the Youngmans made a gift that created the Robert F. Reiff Gallery of Art at the Middlebury Museum of Art, honoring the professor of art history who taught from 1958 to 1982.

John McCardell Jr., 15th president of the College, says, "Bob Youngman was a giant of a man and a giant of a friend. He was a gentle, caring, considerate giant. He loved Middlebury and worked tirelessly for its success."

He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 55 years, children Cameron '87, John '90, and Eloise, and seven grandchildren.

the Caribbean as a Russian linguist. He had a long career in media relations with the American Institute of CPAs. He was a member of the American Schooner Assoc., where he served as Commodore and was a two-time recipient of the American Schooner Assoc. Award, including in 2017 for his years of service. He and his wife spent many years sailing the Northeast coast on their Crocker schooner, *Wild Swan.* He is survived by wife Jeanette (Kovba), daughters Megan and Samantha, and three grandchildren.

61 **Sarah Lobban Decker**, 77, of Loveland, Colo., on August 27, 2017. Over the years she taught preschool and second grade, worked as a librarian, earned a degree in architectural drafting, worked for a weaving publication, and helped run a trout fly business, among other jobs. She is survived by husband Gene, daughters Katherine, Diane, and Martha, and seven grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include grandfather James Lobban, Class of 1898, grandmother Sarah Scoles Lobban, Class of 1899, father Richard Lobban '29, mother Dorothy Dietz Lobban '29, and sister Jean Lobban Thompson '57. Surviving Middlebury relatives include niece Elizabeth Thompson Serlemitsos '86.

Melinda Robart Ryder, 78, formerly of Townsend, Mass., on September 6, 2017. A member of Sigma Kappa, she worked as a research mathematician at the National Security Agency for several years. With a master's in education in school psychology, she worked 27 years as an elementary school special education teacher in the Ayer, Mass., public school system. In retirement she archived historical items, especially photos, for the Townsend Historical Society. She is survived by husband David, son Donald '85, daughter Cindy, and four grandchildren.

63 **Ann C. Linden**, 76, of Amenia, N.Y., on September 29, 2017. She earned a BA in art history and an MA in art education from NYU and did postgraduate work in art therapy. She taught art in elementary schools before owning the Red Hen Sign Co. in Amenia for over 20 years. She restored several Victorian buildings, including the Indian Rock 1858 Schoolhouse. She is survived by husband Christopher Keane.

Joseph J. Meehan, 76, of Shrewsbury, N.J., on October 10, 2017. A member of Sigma Epsilon, he served in the Marine Corp., receiving an honorable discharge from the USMC Reserve. He earned his JD from NYU in 1966 and had a long career as an attorney in New Jersey. He is survived by wife Joan (Sacco), sons Brian '93 and David, and six grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include brother Thomas '62, and nephews Garon Jones '92 and Ryan Kelty '93.

69 **Charles M. Perry**, 70, of Brookline, Mass., on September 26, 2017. An Alpha Sigma Psi at Middlebury, he earned an MA in international affairs, an MA in international law and diplomacy, and a PhD in international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Univ. He served as an officer in the Army Reserve and was a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies. His 40-year career was spent at the Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis in Cambridge, Mass. He wrote extensively on a wide variety of national and international security issues. He is survived by wife Adelaide Ketchum, and children Nicholas, Laura, and Mark '16.

73 **Richard A. Hayes**, 66, of Palm Coast, Fla., on October 5, 2017. A member of Delta Upsilon at Middlebury, his first job out of college was with Southeast Banking Corporation in Miami. Earning an MBA from Harvard, he began a 25-year career with General Electric Capital Corporation in Stamford, Conn. He served in leadership roles on numerous boards. He is survived by wife Gary (Wheeler) '75, daughter Sara '05, son Richard, and three grandchildren. Middlebury relatives include nephew Christopher '12 and niece Lindsay Wheeler '14.

77 **Charles P. Peitz**, 62, of Haddonfield, N.J., on August 23, 2017. He began his career in journalism with a 10-year stint at the *Farm Journal,* where he rose to features editor. From 2000 to 2007, he worked at the *Philadelphia Inquirer,* starting on the copy desk before being promoted to fine arts editor. He also worked at the *Wall Street Journal,* editing stories for the "Personal Journal" section. He coedited a book on St. Peter's Church, a 250-year-old Episcopal church in Philadelphia. He is survived by sisters Anne Remetz, Mary Kelly '83, and Judy Patel and their families.

78 **Jeffrey R. Digel**, 61, of West Hartford, Conn., on October 18, 2017. A member of Chi Psi at Middlebury, he earned a master's from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern Univ. He spent most of his business career in real estate finance and development, starting at Aetna before serving as a founding member, leader, and mentor at both iStar Financial in NYC and Figure Eight Properties in West Hartford. A philanthropist, he was the cofounder of Covenant Preparatory School, a middle school for boys from underserved families. He is survived by wife Jane, and sons Sam and Ben.

Nelson M. Lerner, 60, of Portland, Ore., on September 3, 2017. For several years, he worked as a computer programmer for the Jacobson Group, an insurance recruitment company. He is survived by wife Laurie, stepdaughter Tabitha, stepson Mathew, and one grandchild.

85 **Tamara L. Wood**, 54, of Bridgeport, Conn., on September 14, 2017. She lived for many years in Germany, working as a freelance translator and as the European representative for Norcross Air, a small American company that sold spare airplane parts worldwide. After 12 years in Germany, she moved to Cannes, France, before returning to the U.S. She is survived by son Miles.

04 **Valerie C. Blevins**, 35, of Durham, N.C., on September 4, 2017. She graduated magna cum laude from Middlebury with a major in neurosciences and was a swimmer. She loved the mountains, forests, lakes, streams, and beaches. She is survived by parents Doug and Susan, brother Drew, and sister Claire.

STAFF

Joan Nicolle Allen, 86, of Middlebury, Vt., on September 14, 2017. With a degree in retail management, she worked as an assistant buyer at G. Fox and Co. in Hartford, Conn., before earning a degree in education and teaching high school for almost 10 years. Moving to Middlebury, she worked in the Storrs Library at the College for 16 years, then earned a master's in secondary curriculum. She was a founding member of Addison County Hospice Volunteer Services and worked with the Vermont Council of Gifted and Talented Students. Predeceased by son Chris, she is survived by husband Edward, son Kevin, two granddaughters, and four stepchildren.

James E. Stuart, 48, of Hinesburg, Vt., on October 9, 2017. After graduating from Colby College with a major in math and minor in computers, he came to work at Middlebury as codirector of computing and network services. After six years at the College, he continued his career as VP for technology at Burlee.com and later as chief technology officer at Qvault. He returned to Middlebury in 2010 as systems programmer and administrator and was promoted first to manager then to director of central systems and network services. In 2014 he was promoted to associate VP for information technology. A lover of animals, he served on the board of directors of Addison County's humane society for 12 years, much of the time as president. He also served on the board of trustees of the Howard Center in South Burlington, which provides crisis counseling and support services for children and adults. He is survived by his parents and a sister.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

50 **Muriel Gassett James**, 88, MA French, of Sacramento, Calif., on August 26, 2017. She taught English and French in Sacramento, first at Las Palmas Junior High School then at Grant Union High School, retiring in 1989.

54 **Kenneth C. Motts**, 90, MA English, of Oakfield, N.Y., on September 2, 2017. He taught English at Letchworth Central and Endwell Central, and finished his 35-year career at Oakfield-Alabama Central School.

65 **Charles T. Cooper**, 98, MA Spanish, of Dover, Del., on October 9, 2017. After graduating from the Naval Academy, he served on several ships during WWII. He continued naval service in the submarine force and was chair of the Foreign Language Dept. at the Naval Academy, retiring in 1964. He then taught Spanish and Spanish literature at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., for 14 years.

73 **Susan Klem Jackson**, 67, MA French, of Brookline, Mass., on June 30, 2017. She was an associate professor of French and assistant provost for general education at Boston Univ. Her research focused on the literature and philosophy of 18th-century France and she was the author of *Rousseau's Occasional Autobiographies.*

76 **Dorothy Combs Hill**, 73, MA English, of Las Vegas, N.M., on September 25, 2017. She was an English professor at the Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was a prolific writer.

82 **Nancy Crary Veglahn**, 80, MLitt English, of Sioux Falls, S.D., on October 6, 2017. The author of 15 books for young readers, she taught English at South Dakota State Univ. from 1977 to 1992 and at the Univ. of Sioux Falls from 1992 to 1997. She also helped found the Book Shop in Sioux Falls.

84 **Gail Rudder Kent**, 82, MA English, of Florham Park, N.J., on October 26, 2017. She was a writing professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Institute for Lifelong Learning and former English professor at Upsala College. She and a partner launched *Country Inns,* a bimonthly travel/design/lifestyle publication, where she served as editor in chief and creative director.

88 **Charles A. More**, 89, of Westport, Conn., on October 17, 2017. He served in the Army in Japan following WWII as part of the Peacekeeping Forces. He had a 30-year career with IBM.

97-99 **Michele Vickers Forman**, 71, Arabic School, of Salisbury, Vt., on August 28, 2017. She taught World History at Middlebury Union High School and in 2001 was selected as the National Teacher of the Year, an honor announced by Pres. George Bush in a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House. She was also awarded three honorary doctorates, including one from Middlebury.

JUANA GAMERO DE COCA
NOVEMBER 12, 1959–OCTOBER 6, 2017

Juana Gamero de Coca, 57, associate professor of Spanish, died on October 6, 2017, in Middlebury, Vt. She grew up in Alburquerque, Badajoz, Spain, in the Extremadura region. She attended school in Valladolid, Castilla y León, and was a student of psychology at the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid. Moving to the United States, she earned a BA at the University of Pittsburgh, an MA at New Mexico State University, and a PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her scholarship included 20th- and 21st-century Spanish culture and narrative with a focus on gender.

In 2004 she joined the Spanish and Portuguese Department at Middlebury in a three-year visiting position. She was appointed to the tenure track as an assistant professor of Spanish in 2006 and was tenured in the spring of 2012. She also served as the director of European studies. She taught at all levels of the curriculum from first-year seminars to the language sequence to elective courses in literature, film, and culture. At the time of her death she was teaching a 300-level course, Spain in the Globalized World, and a senior seminar, Culture and Mental Illness. A well-published scholar, Juana wrote many articles and three books.

She was highly regarded in the classroom. Former President Ron Liebowitz wrote in her tenure letter, "Students and colleagues praise your creative and effective teaching that demands a great deal from students and pushes them to take risks. One colleague notes that your teaching shows 'intellectual sophistication and linguistic deftness.' Students note the comfortable atmosphere that you establish in class, and your careful nurturing and advising of independent work."

In addition, she was a well-loved member of the faculty. Miguel Fernandez, professor of Spanish and chief diversity officer, says, "Juana had a particular talent in welcoming our new colleagues in the department, easing their nervousness, making them comfortable, and helping them achieve confidence in their teaching."

She is survived by daughters Carmen '10 and Izzy '17 Fleming, and partner Ricardo Chavez Castaneda, a writer and part-time faculty member in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Classifieds

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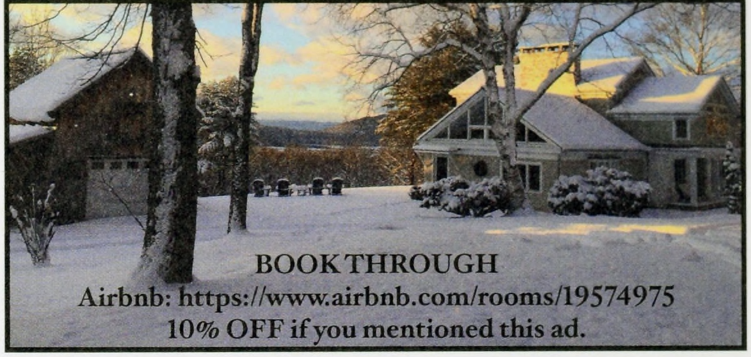

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Christine Fraioli '74 and John K. Nelson - Realtors, CRS, SRES, CIPS, TRC

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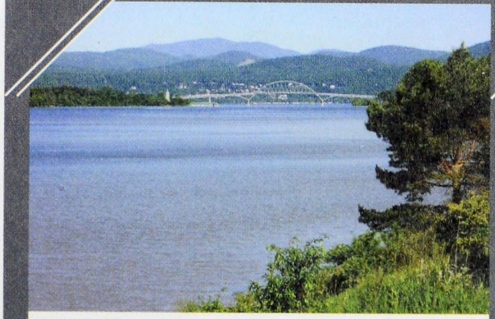

BRIDPORT, VT **$349,900**

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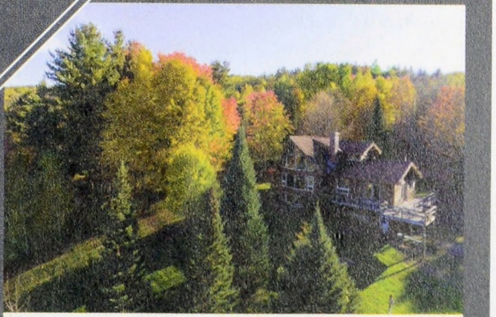
8.70AC **MLS 4468942**



SUDBURY, VT **$495,000**

Green Mountain retreat with both open and wooded land. An open floor plan with vaulted ceilings offers expansive views through abundant windows.

4BR | 3BA | 2999SF | 22.06AC **MLS 4662507**

By Courtney Mather '92

Somehow

Muffled cracks and pops in the distance woke me despite the earplugs I wore to drown out the generator's loud hum just outside my door. ¶ "Thunder," I rationalized as I tried unsuccessfully to drift back to sleep. ¶ The next morning I found my boss standing just outside his room, deep in thought. ¶ "Some thunder that was last night. . . . ?" I said, my intonation falling somewhere between a question and a statement.

"That, my dear, was the start of a civil war," he replied.

It was December 16, 2013, in South Sudan, the world's newest country. I had come here two months earlier to work with a humanitarian organization, hoping to be helpful. Now I was being told to prepare to evacuate.

Despite the danger, our cook continued crossing the city each day to ensure we had food. "It's my duty," she answered when we encouraged her to stay home. "God is watching over me," she added as she departed in the evening, only to return the following morning.

Our security guards were unarmed but remained faithfully with us. "How is your family?" I asked one guard after he had an opportunity to return home.

"Somehow," he answered. "Somehow" is an expression used in South Sudan that fits into the universal category of inexplicability also occupied by *mas o menos*, *comme ci, comme ça,* and "so-so."

Three days later I was at the airport, feeling helpless. This was compounded once I entered the terminal, where people waving passports of every nationality were trampling one another.

I quickly set my sights on the exit, only to be shoved over a pile of luggage into a police officer who double flat-palmed me in the upper chest back the other way.

A security guard saw my distress and cleverly motioned for me to climb under a wire fence to escape. Lifting my luggage over it, he pointed to where I might find the U.S. evacuation flight.

I eventually found it. Our fearless leader, a U.S. Marine not a day over 25 and limping around in an air cast, was cute as can be yet tough as nails. Her severely sunburned shoulders hinted that today was merely a déjà vu for her: she had spent the day prior organizing the first round of evacuations.

"Dancing in high heels at the Marine ball in Juba!" she answered with pride and a giggle when I asked her how she had injured her ankle. Mid-giggle, she suddenly barked: "EVERYONE STAY IN A SINGLE-FILE LINE!"

The evacuation line, which had been growing its waistline by the moment, immediately transformed into an organized row of dominoes.

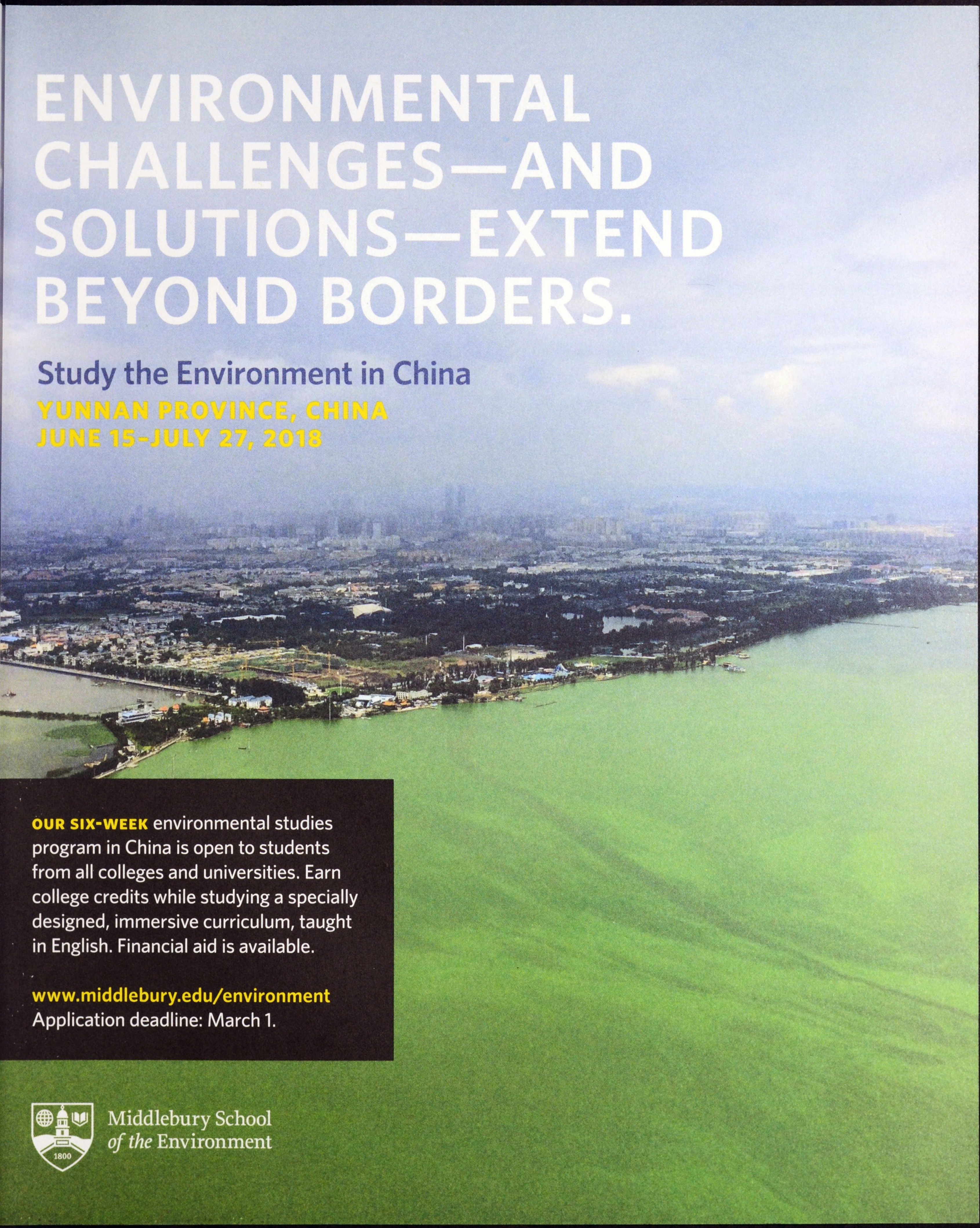
South Sudanese airport employees continued to work around us, graciously facilitating evacuations yet with no way out of this mess themselves. "You found your PEEEEEEEEOPLE!!!!" the security guard who had helped me earlier exclaimed joyfully while passing by. I chased after him to thank him profusely.

A full day passed in the domino line under the blazing sun before the U.S. Marine was authorized to guide us (U.S. citizens, green-card holders, and all foreigners who could fit) to a plane chartered by the U.S. government to evacuate us to Nairobi, Kenya. As we departed, she turned back to repeat today again tomorrow.

Weeks later the fighting moved north and my organization permitted me to return.

"You came back!" my South Sudanese colleagues exclaimed, embracing me with giant bear hugs, laughter, and pure delight.

ILLUSTRATION BY JULIA BRECKENREID



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